UKRAINIAN NEWS
УКРАЇНСЬКІ ВІСТІ

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Orange Coalition talks deadlocked

See page 5

Ukrainian Canadian testing federal Liberal leadership

By Marco Levytsky

A Canadian of Ukrainian origin is among the 18 federal leadership hopefuls aiming to replace former Prime Minister Paul Martin.

Gerard Kennedy, 45, announced his resignation as Ontario Minister of Education April 5 in order to organize his campaign for the leadership.

He has not formally announced his candidacy, but was among the 16 hopefuls who showed up for the Liberal Party of Canada in Alberta's Convention and Annual General Meeting held April 7-9 in Edmonton, where he told Ukrainian News that he resigned his ministerial post because he felt it wasn't possible to have two serious commitments at the same time.

Kennedy's great grandfather Wasyl Shemanski, was one of the first Ukrainian pioneers to settle in the Ethelbert region near Dauphin, Man., in 1897.

Kennedy himself, was born and grew up in The Pas, north of the Ethelbert area, where his father, Jack, who is of Scottish ancestry, served as mayor and his mother, Caroline, was an elementary school teacher.

As a child who took both Ukrainian language and dancing classes at the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Dauphin. He is currently a practicing Roman Catholic.

Speaking with Ukrainian News during an exclusive interview, April 8, he said Canada should look at ways of improving immigration from countries with which it has a special relationship, like Ukraine.

"The basic principles for immigration should be the prospects for success and with our very large, used-to-be Diaspora and now-connected Canadian community here, I think that we have huge prospects for success and I think that should be a factor in our immigration policy," he said.

PHOTO — IVAN KOREC

Gerard Kennedy walks in a recent parade of the Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival in Toronto.

Kennedy added that enhancing the family reunification program could go a long way in improving the immigration situation.

"It's not about the flow of immigrants, per se, it's about how well they do when they come here, and I believe that those who have strong family roots and that have supportive networks and mentors, are going to thrive faster… I think when we look at the family reunification program, it has affirmative success because of that truism that there are people that are prepared to take some of the responsibility.

"So, I would certainly like to see us have a special relationship with Ukraine. I can't see how we could not, given the makeup of our country. I see it as an economic opportunity, I see it as a social responsibility and I see it as part of the future that I see for us, for Canada, as the first international country in the world. We have to start becoming that."

Asked whether the Ukrainian community infrastructure that exists in Canada is important, Kennedy replied "absolutely" and that "it should be promoted."

When asked further whether any special consideration should be given Ukrainian immigration to Canada because of the 50-year vacuum that existed due to Soviet policies, Kennedy answered that it can be "but again it comes back to the factors that have already been mentioned — what is the capacity of Canada to successfully absorb Ukrainian Canadian immigration? The availability of host, cultural, community and economic infrastructure has to be one of these factors and at some point we should be looking at the track record (of Ukrainian immigrants to Canada)."

Asked about implementing the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Citi-

Cont. on P. 9

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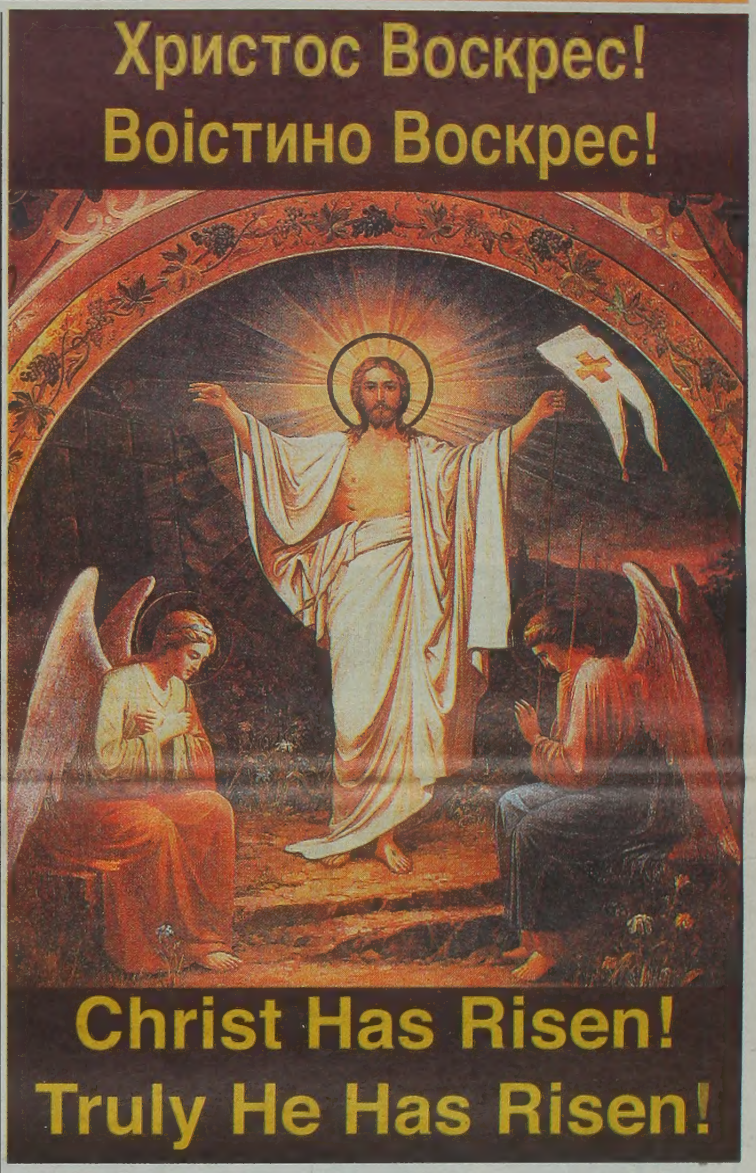

"Наша Україна" не захотіла здаватися Тимошенко

(Українська правда)—Політична рада блоку "Наша Україна" схвалила протокол щодо процедури формування коаліції демократичних сил з БЮТ та СПУ, за винятком пункту шостого.

Про це повідомляє прес-служба блоку.

Як відомо, саме цей пункт міг обумовити прем'єрство Юлії Тимошенко.

В своїй заяві, 19 квітня, "Наша Україна" наголошує, що шостий пункт протоколу порушує всю логіку документа та переговорного процесу загалом.

"Він містить некоректне та суперечливе посилання на проект меморандуму про створення Коаліції демократичних сил. На сьогодні існує кілька проектів меморандуму, які містять взаємосуперечливі положення. Отже, остаточного та узгодженого між усіма сторонами меморандуму немає", - говориться в заяві блоку.

Водночас "Наша Україна" також заявляє, що відсутність шостого пункту протоколу не означає його денонсацію, наполягає на створенні коаліції демократичних сил у рамках трійки.

Блок закликає припинити інформаційні війни між майбутніми партнерами по коаліції та відновити конструктивний діалог.

Блок "Наша Україна" також наголошує, що "для кожного українця програма розвитку країни і власного добробуту не зводиться до боротьби окремого політика за прем'єрське крісло".

"Угода про створення коаліції демсил у Верховній Раді V скликання мусить ґрунтуватися передусім на узгодженій позиції сторін щодо програмних засад діяльності (Розділ I), регламенту діяльності коаліції (Розділ II) і лише потім розподілу сфер відповідальності між її учасниками", - говориться в заяві.

Як відомо, протокол було підписано представниками БЮТ, СПУ та "Нашої України" 13 квітня. Однак наступного дня політрада "Нашої України" відмовилась підтримувати шостий пункт.

19 квітня Тимошенко звинуватила Юрія Єханурова, Петра Порошенка та Миколу Мартиненка у веденні переговорів з Партією регіонів про створення коаліції.

Тоді ж Соціалістична партія заявила, що підтримує прагнення лідера БЮТ Юлії Тимошенко отримати посаду прем'єра та пропонує "Нашій Україні" її підтримати.

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Централя Українців Католиків Едмонтонської Епархії

Зі світлим празником Христового Воскресення *щиро вітає голову Помісної Української Католицької Церкви, Блаженішого Патріярха Любомира, Високопреосвященного Митрополита Лаврентія, Всесв. о. Василя Гупало, Адміністратора Едмонтонської Єпархії, усе Духовенство, Чернецтво, Мирян, Проводи і Членство Українських Громадських, Організацій та Інституцій та ввесь Український Нарід у світі.*

Оля Глусь, голова Централі
Йосип Синишин, голова Братства УКК
Галя Сірман, голова ЛУКЖК
Маргарета Батті, голова УКЮК

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC COUNCIL
Edmonton Eparchy

In celebration of Christ's Resurrection we wish the Ukrainian community a happy and blessed Easter.

Olga Hlus, UCCC President
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У Жовкві вдруге за останні 5 років виявлені людські останки

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

У самісінькому центрі Жовкви, що у Львівській області, в церковному подвір'ї храму Святого Йосафата, знайдені людські кості. За попередньою інформацією ці люди стали жертвами НКВС у 50-ті роки. Втім розкопки не проводяться і кістки залишаються лежати у землі.

Церква святого Йосафата розташована якраз навпроти Жовківської райадміністрації. Нещодавно під час ремонтних робіт на колишньому монастирському подвір'ї виявили людські кістки, які хаотично розкидані, але є й цілі людські залишки. Деякі з них належать молодим хлопцям і дівчатам. У деяких з них відсутні кінцівки. Працівники Жовківського заповідника в землі знайшли монети 1949 року, що дає підстави стверджувати, що злочини НКВД діялись в 50-ті роки. У Жовкві наприкінці 40-х -50-роках у місцевих монастирях розташовувався Народний комісаріат внутрішніх справ (НКВС), який у 1954 році перейменували в КДБ. Жертвами НКВС ставали українці –патріоти. Скільки людей лежить на церковному подвір'ї - невідомо. Розкопано лише квадратний метр території. Канцлер Сокольської єпархії УГКЦ отець Володимир Хоткевич зауважив, що розкопки проводились на аматорському рівні.

«Ми повідомили місцеву владу про страшну знахідку, але нічого не робиться. Мало б проводитись слідство».

Більше 50-ти років церковне подвір'я було місцем вічного спочинку колишніх жовківчан. У землі працівники історичного заповідника знайшли дві гільзи, є сліди від куль на людських останках. Але це не стало підставою для місцевої влади проводити розкопки і ексгумацію. Жовківська районна прокуратура досі не порушила кримінальну справу, оскільки, за словами заступника районного прокурора Володимира Гаврилюка, не має слідів злочину.

«Наскільки мені відомо, кримінальна справа не порушена».

Жовківська районна прокуратура не порушила кримінальну справу і за фактом знайдених у 2002 році в підвалах монастиря Різдва Христового останків 225 людей, в тому числі 80 дітей, найменшій жертві було 4 місяці. На деяких черепах був виявлений кульовий отвір, інші були розколені. На стінах монастирського підвалу під час розкопок я бачила сліди засохлої крові. Людей катували, стверджують висновки експертизи. За даними експертної комісії, люди стали жертвами радянської таємної поліції. Останки ексгумовані і вже котрий рік їх не ховають: місцева влада каже, що на це не має грошей…Нещодавно кості поскидали у 2 мішки. Єпископ Сокольської єпархії Михайло Ковтун зазначає, що непоховані за обрядом душі є великим гріхом для сучасників:

«Це є тягар не тільки над тими, хто до злочину причетний, а й над усіма нами: це наші люди, які вимагають від нас пошани і належного пошанування».

Якби кожен мешканець Жовкви пожертвував кілька копійок на поховання своїх земляків, то уже б давно у місті стояв величний хрест за невинними жертвами радянського часу. Однак городяни вказують на владу, влада - на брак грошей, прокуратура на те, що це не її компетенція. Словом, кожен знаходить крайнього, а тим часом людські останки й надалі лежать у землі, а інші перекидають з місця на місце, як мішки з картоплею.

СБУ затримала майора-шпигуна

(Українська правда)—Контррозвідка Служби безпеки викрила і припинила шпигунську діяльність двох громадян України на користь іншої держави. Як повідомляє прес-центр СБУ, затриманими є старший офіцер Збройних сил України Г., секретоносій, та його колишня дружина, приватний підприємець.

"В ході проведеної співробітниками СБУ операції було перехоплено дискету з інформацією щодо систем зв'язку в Збройних силах України, яку Г. передав колишній дружині для подальшого вивезення за кордон", - йдеться в повідомленні.

За оцінкою Державних експертів з питань таємниць, інформація, яка планувалася до передачі іноземній спецслужбі, має гриф "таємно", і її розголошення могло б заподіяти значної шкоди обороноздатності України.

Як встановило слідство, подружжя Г. було завербовано розвідкою однієї з сусідніх східно-європейських країн.

За її завданням вони збирали і передавали за грошову винагороду відомості з військової тематики, що становлять державну таємницю та інформацію конфіденційного характеру.

7 квітня 2006 р. Військовий місцевий суд Київського гарнізону виніс вирок, згідно з яким громадянин Г. позбавлений волі строком на чотири роки та шість місяців за "державну зраду" з позбавленням військового звання «майор» і права обіймати посади, пов'язані з допуском до державної таємниці.

Громадянка Г. визнана винною у вчиненні "державної зради", їй призначено покарання у виді позбавлення волі терміном чотири з половиною роки.

Україна й США ще наблизилися до ядерного сховища?

(Українська правда/Українські новини)—Україна й США домовилися про співробітництво у сфері ядерної та радіаційної безпеки. Про це сказано у повідомленні посольства України в США.

Відповідно до повідомлення, 10 квітня Державний комітет ядерного регулювання України й Комісія ядерного регулювання США підписали міжвідомчу угоду про обмін технічною інформацією та співробітництво у сфері ядерної і радіаційної безпеки.

Угода передбачає активізацію взаємовигідного співробітництва між двома країнами в ядерній сфері.

Документ підписано у рамках візиту голови Держатомрегулювання Олени Миколайчук у США, який тривав до 15 квітня.

Як повідомляло агентство, у грудні 2005 року Національна атомна енергогенеруюча компанія "Енергоатом" й американська Holtec підписали контракт на будівництво централізованого сховища відпрацьованого ядерного палива для 3-х українських атомних електростанцій (Рівненської, Хмельницької і Південно-Української).

У січні Україна заявила про намір запропонувати міжнародній спільноті взяти участь у фінансуванні 53 довгострокових проектів, спрямованих на підвищення безпеки ядерних матеріалів.

Наприкінці 2009 року Україна має намір припинити вивіз відпрацьованого ядерного палива в Росію, побудувавши централізоване сховище відпрацьованого ядерного палива.

"Мерседес" Івченка продали... у той же день

(Українська правда)—НАК "Нафтогаз України" продав автомобіль "Мерседес", що був придбаний для голови цієї компанії, Олексія Івченка.

"Мерседес" уже продано. Того ж дня", - передає слова Івченка "Інтерфакс-Україна".

Разом з тим голова "Нафтогазу" також зазначив, що їздить тепер на купленому досить давно "Мерседесі" і запропонував журналістам сфотографувати цей автомобіль, що стоїть під будинком уряду.

Крім того, Івченко спростував інформацію про те, що одна з дочірніх компаній НАКу "Газ-тепло" придбала 11 джипів "Фольксваген Туарег".

"Я не знаю, що таке "Туарег", і про які "Туарег" ви говорите. Знаю, що під програму "Теплий будинок" будуть закуповуватися китайські машини, які, за моєю інформацією, найдешевші і надійніші, якщо порівняти їх надійність і вартість", - сказав він.

У той же час Івченко уточнив, що має намір повідомити всі подробиці, що стосуються продажі автомобілю "Мерседес", на прес-конференції, яку він проведе з ініціативи президента наприкінці цього тижня або наступного.

Раніше ЗМІ повідомили, що керівництво НАК "Нафтогаз України" користується автомобілем "Мерседес" S-класу вартістю 215 тис. доларів. Цей автомобіль нібито значиться за дочірнім підприємством НАК - держпідприємством "Газ-тепло".

Президент Віктор Ющенко на минулому тижні сказав, що рекомендував голові НАКу Івченку продати цей автомобіль.

Відомо, що протягом тижня прес-секретарі "Нафтогазу" і "Газ-тепло" заявляли, що доручення президента стосовно продажу виконується, але про подробиці продажу говорили, що "нічого не знають".

MacKay assures UCPBF of Canada's support for Ukraine

The New Pathway, April 6, 2006

Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Peter MacKay, has reassured Ukrainian Canadians of Canada's commitment to fostering close ties with Ukraine and supporting Ukraine in its current challenges.

"Ukraine continues to be a special partner to Canada," MacKay wrote in a March 27 letter, addressed to the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation.

"Canada and Ukraine enjoy close relations," continued MacKay, "based on a historic foundation of over 100 years of Ukrainian migration to Canada. Canada and Canadians attach great importance to revitalizing our two countries' bilateral relations, especially since the dramatic evens of last year's Orange Revolution. We are proud to send an unprecedented number of election observers to the December 2004 presidential elections, and have once again deployed Canadians to the international election observation mission," wrote MacKay.

"Canada continues to support Ukraine as the country continues to face and surmount the challenges of democracy, implement political and economic reforms, and strive towards greater European-Atlantic integration," added MacKay.

Peter MacKay

MacKay's letter was written in response to a letter sent to Jim Flaherty, Canada's Minister of finance, in which the UCPBF expressed concern over comments made by Flaherty at the group of Eight summit in Moscow in February.

At the G8 summit, Flaherty was asked by reporters about his reaction to the dispute over deliveries of natural gas to Ukraine and Western Europe. Flaherty replied: "They've (Russia) hosted a very good meeting here and we appreciate it. I am not going to talk about Russian internal affairs, that's for sure."

The UCPBF, in a letter to Flaherty, noted that the issue of natural gas does not pertain to Russia's "internal affairs" but rather is a matter of "external affairs" because Ukraine is an independent country. The federation also pointed out that "natural gas is a weapon currently being used by Russia in its external affairs, one of many weapons used by Russia to destabilize Ukraine's independence and to punish it for developing a foreign policy that does not concur with Russia's."

In closing, the UCPBF urged the government of Canada to recommit its policy to actively support and protect Ukraine's independence at every possible opportunity and to make this support one of the pillars of Canada's foreign policy.

Goldring to press for Ukraine issues

(UkrNews)-Peter Goldring, Member of Parliament for Edmonton East, has been appointed to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development.

Goldring says that he is looking forward to playing an active role in foreign policy discussion from a government perspective and advancing many of his related interests, goals and initiatives.

"As a strong proponent of Canada-Ukraine relations I will encourage Canadian foreign affairs policy to remain committed to building democracy and economic development in Ukraine and facilitating greater trade between the two countries," he said in a press release issued April 10.

"Having just returned from my second election monitoring mission to Ukraine, this time as a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, I am confident that Ukraine is on a positive road of democratic renewal and long term stability and Canada must remain a part of and partner in that journey," said Goldring.

Speaking with Ukrainian News the next day, Goldring noted that he had discussed the possibility of opening a "Canada House" in Kyiv with Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Abina Dann during his visit to Ukraine. This would serve as a gathering together of existing and new initiatives and enhancing a natural gateway for trade and cultural exchanges. The facility could also serve the Canadian Diaspora, he said.

This would be of great benefit to Canada "because it would be a centre that would be in the Eastern Europe area (and) I certainly believe that that's the next area that's going to be on a very positive growth basis."

Goldring added that he will be looking into the question of a Ukrainian Consulate in Edmonton with the Department of Foreign Affairs and will try to find out what the impediments are.

He said that he will also continue to seek greater Canadian involvement in the Caribbean, including closer economic ties and broader trade opportunities.

UCC concerned over future of multiculturalism

(UkrNews)—The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is concerned about statements Heritage Minister Bev Oda made about multiculturalism and has asked the minister to clarify them.

Responding to a question from Liberal MP Maria Minna (Beaches—East York) on why there is no longer a minister responsible for multiculturalism in the House of Commons, April 7, Oda replied that "we are reviewing the programs."

"We know a review is called for after 12 years of perpetuating a program that is ineffective and needs to be re-addressed," she said.

"We will commit to every ethnic community across Canada so they can participate equally and fully in all aspects of Canadian society," Oda added.

"It's not clear what they mean to do with the program," said UCC National Executive Director Ostap Skrypnyk, April 18.

"Do they mean to reinvigorate it, revive it and give it more funding, or do they mean to get rid of it?" he queried.

Skrypnyk added that it is "a bit disturbing that there is no minister of state for multiculturalism."

He said the UCC has sent a letter to the minister asking fort a clarification of the government's position.

"We're not against a review of multiculturalism, but we're against anything that would give it a secondary role. We still believe that multiculturalism is one of the defining elements of this country," he told Ukrainian News.

Ukrainian News has also contacted the minister's office.

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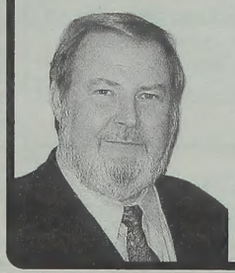

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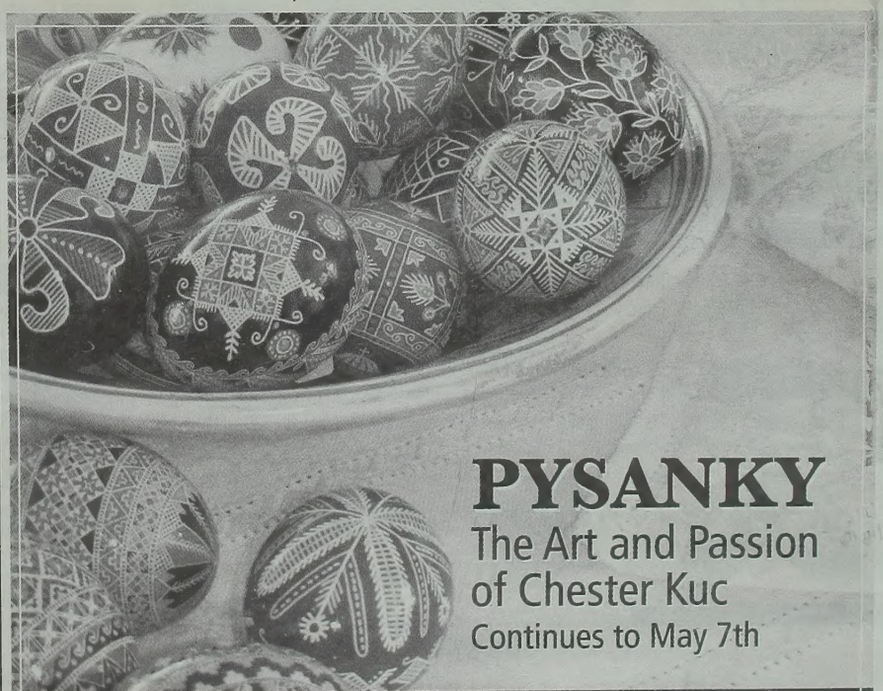

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Мін'юст США назвав лобістів Януковича

(Українська правда/Вашинґтон Профайл)—Уряд України часів Віктора Януковича витратив більш півмільйона доларів на послуги однієї лобістської компанії, що представляла інтереси держави в США.

Депутати можуть позмагатися з арабським принцем. Про це говориться в звіті міністерства Юстиції США про діяльність лобістських компаній, які представляють інтереси іноземних держав, організацій і приватних осіб у США.

Уряд України користувався консультаційними послугами компанії White & Case (бюджет $564. 8 тис.). А тодішній прем'єр-міністр України Віктор Янукович і його радник Едуард Прутнік найняли чотири компанії: DB Communications (PR, бюджет - $99.9 тис.), JWI (PR, $195.4 тис.), Aleksei Kiselev (лобізм, бюджет не зазначений) і Venable (PR, бюджет також не зазначений).

Станом на 30 червня 2005 року, у США діяли 475 компаній, що представляли інтереси 589 іноземних замовників.

Під замовниками американське законодавство розуміє не тільки окрему державу, але й іноземні організації і осіб, які мають намір впливати на США.

У свою чергу, під впливом розуміється "залучення в суспільну діяльність", "PR-акції", "поширення і збір будь-яких даних і предметів усередині США", а також "представлення інтересів іноземного замовника в органах влади США".

Нині своїх лобістів у Вашинґтоні мають 135 держав і окремих територій.

Росію представляли дві лобістські фірми. Компанію Denton найняло РІА "Новини", що заплатило $53.2 тис. за розширення обміну інформацією між Росією і США, а також за розсилання матеріалів про Росію американській професурі і бібліотекам.

Law Offices of Stewart and Stewart представляв інтереси Фонду Федерального Майна, що за допомогою лобістів намагався залучити американських бізнесменів до придбання власності в Росії.

Грузію обслуговували компанії Daniel J. Edelman, Inc. (організовувала інтерв'ю з грузинськими офіційними особами під час їхніх візитів у США за що за 6 місяців одержала $85 тис.), Orion Strategies (лобізм, просувала ідею про прийом Грузії до НАТО, $84.1 тис.)

У Криму арештували секретаря селищної ради за підозрою у замовленні вбивства

Володимир Притула, *Радіо Свобода*

У Криму арештували секретаря місцевої ради за підозрою у замовленні вбивства конкурента на виборах селищного голови. Сьогодні Прокуратура Криму повідомила, що повністю підтвердилася політична версія замаху на життя новообраного мера кримського селища Мирного.

Прокуратура Криму повідомила, що учора правоохоронці аж у Кіровограді затримали останнього підозрюваного у вбивстві кандидата на посаду селищного голови Мирного Анатолія Симоненка. Іншим семи затриманим особам прокурор вже висунув обвинувачення у вчиненні цього злочину. Серед них – секретар Мирненської селищної ради та працівник євпаторійської міліції.

Каже прокурор Криму Віктор Шемчук: "Версія про те, що його замовили політичні конкуренти і причиною є посада Мирненського селищного голови – повністю підтвердилася. Усі затримані – зізналися, дають покази, є всі докази цієї версії".

Анатолій Симоненко зазнав нападу зловмисників увечері 24 березня. Тоді в присутності його дружини і товариша на нього напали два чоловіка і завдали дерев'яним молотком та металевою трубою кілька сильних ударів по голові. За це вони отримали від замовника 2 тисячі доларів США та трохи більше 9 тисяч гривень. Анатолій Симоненко помер не приходячи до тями 29 березня, коли стало відомо, що він переміг на виборах.

Президент Віктор Ющенко кілька тижнів тому публічно закликав правоохоронців провести швидке і ретельне розслідування цього злочину. Окрім прокурора Криму Віктора Шемчука її розслідування особисто контролювали і начальники кримських главків міліції та СБУ. 12 квітня керівник президентського секретаріату Олег Рибачук сказав на прес-конференції у Сімферополі, що сподівається на передачу цієї справи до суду уже у травні.

Селище Мирне розташоване на північному сході Криму на узбережжі озера Донузлав, де Кабінет міністрів пропонує збудувати один з найбільших в Україні портово-транспортних комплексів. Дехто з місцевих оглядачів вважає, що саме це сильно підняло ціну крісла селищного голови. Каже кримський аналітик Микола Семена:

"Значення і ціна посадових місць у Криму виростає залежно від перспективності населеного пункту. А в Новоозерному планують будівництво величезного порту - одного з найбільших на Чорному морі. Тож, цілком припускаю, що ціна крісла мера селища настільки зросла, що зрівнялася з ціною людського життя".

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Чорнобиль: людський вимір техногенної катастрофи

Богдана Костюк, *Радіо Свобода*

Напередодні 20-річчя Чорнобильської катастрофи українські урядовці та науковці спробували охарактеризувати людський вимір найбільшої техногенної аварії в історії людства. Для цього 18-го квітня у київському Музеї Чорнобиля зустрілися представники уряду зустрілися з журналістами і дипломатами.

Близько трьох мільйонів постраждалих українців (з них понад 617 тисяч – діти) – такий людський вимір аварії на Чорнобильській АЕС. Як зазначив перший-віце-прем'єр Станіслав Сташевський:

"Чорнобильське лихо призвело до фатальної необхідності сотням тисяч людей покидати домівки, рвати природні зв'язки з обжитим середовищем, що спричинило масштабні негативні демографічні, соціальні та етнокультурні процеси в українському суспільстві".

Уряд затвердив програму соціально-економічного розвитку територій, які зазнали забруднення унаслідок Чорнобильської катастрофи. Прозвітував пан Сташевський. Але не пояснив: чи поліпшиться і як саме від реалізації цієї програми життя кількох сотень самоселів – поліщуків, які повернулися жити у рідні села, забруднені радіацією.

Про щоденні проблеми, сподівання і мрії цих людей нині знає більше етнограф Олексій Доля, який щойно повернувся з Чорнобильської зони.

"Ті люди, де там лишилися одна людина, чи п'ятеро, чи десять у селі, для них найголовніше – це увага. Увага держави, влади до них. Вони ж не вимагають того, що люди у місті, вони кажуть, що їх рідна земля, кожна рослинка, кожна травинка береже там. Їм треба просто, щоби про них хтось пам'ятав".

Відвідини бодай раз на місяць лікаря та священника – ось нехитрі очікування самоселів, українців, яким здається, що про них забув увесь світ.

Talks on Orange coalition deadlocked

(Ukrainian Journal/RFE/RL/UkrNews)—Talks over creation of a pro-Western coalition were in a deadlock April 18 after former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko had rejected a key demand set by President Viktor Yushchenko.

Tymoshenko refused to draft a detailed roadmap of economic policy measures and reforms to be implemented by the future government, a move that may deal a fatal blow towards the coalition.

"We will not be wasting our time for giving birth to new programs," Tymoshenko said at a press conference April 18. "There is 'the 10 steps towards people' and the program of the government that I have led that had been supported by 370 lawmakers. We discontinue all debates over the program and rely on these two documents."

Hours later Yushchenko issued a special statement to stress that he had been "concerned" over developments around the creation of the coalition.

And on April 19, the day this issue of Ukrainian News went to press, Yushchenko's "Our Ukraine" issued a statement that said the main stumbling block in the talks was the issue of Tymoshenko's demand for the prime minister's post (See front page Ukrainian-language story).

This underscores a significant level of opposition within Our Ukraine towards accepting Tymoshenko as the prime minister, which echoes a major split between the two groups last year.

Yushchenko has been persistently urging groups to draft the roadmap before the coalition is formally created in order to prevent infighting between the groups that had already toppled the government last year.

The roadmap was seen as an important safeguard to prevent Tymoshenko from resorting to populism and controversial economic measures, such as the re-privatization, that had slowed economic growth last year.

Although Tymoshenko has recently pledged to abandon her controversial economic policies (see Business Section), the refusal to draft the roadmap is likely to boost suspicions among potential coalition partners that such policy may continue.

Tymoshenko also accused Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov, Petro Poroshenko, and Mykola Martynenko from the pro-presidential Our Ukraine bloc on April 18 of clinching a coalition deal with the Party of Regions led by Yushchenko's political rival, former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, Ukrainian media reported.

"A program has been launched now to discredit talks among democratic forces and those same people are working now to lay the ground for the announcement of a so-called broad coalition between the Party of Regions and Our Ukraine," Tymoshenko said.

She demanded direct talks with Yushchenko to break the deadlock in negotiations between her bloc, Our Ukraine, and the Socialist Party to restore the 2004 Orange Revolution coalition.

Our Ukraine, in turn, demanded that Tymoshenko withdraw her allegations that some of its activists were involved in talks on forming a coalition with the Party of Regions, Ukrainian media reported.

"The Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc is continuing the list of lies that was started during the parliamentary elections. [The bloc] is doing everything possible and impossible to have a coalition with Our Ukraine broken up by reducing the negotiating process to granting the prime ministerial position to Yuliya Tymoshenko and the position of Verkhovna Rada chairman to the Socialist Party," Our Ukraine said in a statement.

Meanwhile, other signs have been emerging indicating that the coalition may collapse.

Tymoshenko, who has been earlier suggesting that an Our Ukraine member should get the post of the Speaker of Parliament, on April 18 changed her mind to suggest the post to be taken by Socialist Party leader Oleksandr Moroz.

"We will be firmly insisting on Moroz becoming the Speaker," Tymoshenko said.

In return, the Socialist Party issued a statement supporting Tymoshenko as the post of the prime minister.

Tymoshenko called on Yushchenko to step in the process of the creation of the coalition and said the president will bear responsibility if the talks fail.

"We make the president responsible for the creation of the coalition," Tymoshenko said.

But Yushchenko, in the statement, urged political figures "to refrain from the language of blackmail and ultimatums." He urged to settle all problematic issues through negotiations and insisted that the coalition members draft the roadmap.

"The most pressing draft laws have to be drafted, jointly with main economic and social tasks, and strict timeframes must be set," Yushchenko said.

April 13 it looked like a coalition had finally been agreed to when leaders of the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc, the Our Ukraine People's Union, and the Socialist Party signed a protocol. The protocol reportedly included a provision to the effect that the party that garnered the largest number of votes in the March 26 parliamentary elections will nominate its representative for prime minister. The Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc came in second in the elections, ahead of the Our Ukraine bloc and the Socialist Party.

But the talks suffered yet another setback the following day, when Our Ukraine rejected the clause allowing Yulia Tymoshenko to secure the post of the prime minister.

Tymoshenko, angered by the development, lashed out at Our Ukraine, warning it may actually undermine the coalition.

"We believe this is in fact a denunciation, torpedoing of the accord and undermining of the signed agreements," Tymoshenko said. She urged Our Ukraine's political body to vote again to approve the entire accord.

Tymoshenko also urged President Viktor Yushchenko to step in to help create the coalition.

But Yushchenko said April 15 the coalition had been making steady progress and insisted the coalition partners should first agree on major policy steps before discussing any personnel appointments in the future government.

"The talks are proceeding in their own way, normal way," Yushchenko said. "I ask everybody to calm down. The time will come and all these decisions will be approved."

Yushchenko also criticized the disputed clause. "When I learned about the clause… it goes beyond principles and even gets somewhat personal," Yushchenko said. "The coalition is being created not for appointing somebody, but for achieving something."

Russian deputy sorry for erotic movie of Saakashvili, Tymoshenko

(RFE/RL)—A nationalist Russian lawmaker has publicly apologized for scripting an erotic movie parodying Georgia's President Mikheil Saakashvili and Ukraine's then Prime Minister Yuliya Tymoshenko one year ago.

Aleksei Mitrofanov of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) told Georgian reporters he now believes the controversial film was "a political mistake."

The two leading roles in the 30-minute film, "Yulya," resemble Saakashvili and Tymoshenko. It ends with a sex scene in a helicopter.

Mitrofanov said the film had had "an impact quite different from what I expected."

Both the Georgian and Ukrainian governments ignored the movie.

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Victor Buyniak's donation funds the Lesya Ukrainka Chair through the Prairie Centre for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage (PCUH). The Chair is named after the outstanding Ukrainian literary figure Lesya Ukrainka. As an academic unit of STM the PCUH offers expertise and institutional support in developing a program of study aimed at documenting and assessing the Ukrainian-Canadian experience while situating it within the national context.

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"Through the Lesya Ukrainka Chair my contribution will be used to continue in the preservation, study and promotion of Ukrainian-Canadian heritage - creating greater public awareness of the contribution of Ukrainian Canadians to the national life of Canada."

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Українські Вісті це незалежна газета, яка сама утримується із передплат, оголошень та пожертв на пресовий фонд. Просимо підтримувати нашу газету повищими джерелами. Дякуємо заздалегідь за Вашу підтримку.

New Citizenship Act should be "no-brainer" for new government

The Conservative government is in a very good position to reverse a piece of discriminatory legislation that has made second-class citizens out of 6 million naturalized Canadians, implement a promise it made during the recent election campaign, and do so with the blessings of the vast majority of the House of Commons to boot.

We are referring the recommendations of the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, which would turn the current revocation of citizenship system into a judicial (as opposed to political) process, and make it consistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights.

Under the current Citizenship Act, citizenship can be revoked when a person obtained citizenship or permanent residence by false representation or fraud or by knowingly concealing material circumstances. Following a review in Federal Court — where a judge must simply agree that it is more likely than not that the person improperly obtained citizenship — the Federal Cabinet becomes responsible for making the revocation order.

The Standing Committee determined that the potential loss of citizenship is of such fundamental significance to the person concerned that fraud should be proven beyond a reasonable doubt in a criminal court, that the legal protections of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms — specifically sections 7 to 14 — must apply, and there should be no special limits placed on the right to appeal. It tabled its proposals before parliament on June 7, 2005 and the report received unanimous concurrence from the House on June 16.

The report was the result of cross country consultations involving more than 130 witnesses during the previous parliamentary session. Evidence relating to previous citizenship studies in the 36th and 37th parliaments was also reviewed.

Introducing a new Citizenship Act, which would incorporate the recommendations of the committee, should be a "no-brainer" for the Conservative government. These proposals had the support of all of its members on the committee, all the NDP representatives, plus all the members of the Bloc Quebecois. It also had the support most of the then-governing Liberals including the Chair, Andrew Telegdi. The dissenting opinion came from Citizenship Minister Joe Volpe's own parliamentary secretary, Hedy Fry, and reflected his own views on the subject, which may have had a lot more to do with loyalty to lobby groups than the principles of the Canadian Charter of Rights.

Furthermore, during the election campaign, the Conservative Party indicated it would implement these recommendations.

In response to a questionnaire issued by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress the Conservative Party replied: "Conservative members of the CIC committee, including our Citizenship and Immigration critic, Diane Ablonczy, wholeheartedly supported this House of Commons report."

A new Citizenship Act was being prepared and would have been introduced into the House of Commons had the government not fallen in November.

This makes it all the more imperative that it be introduced now. Yes, the government may have its five major priorities, but there are many problems beyond these that need to be addressed as well.

The current discriminatory citizenship revocation process is one of them. Reforming it has widespread support among all parties in the House of Commons, it has been endorsed by virtually every ethnocultural group in Canada and would correct a fundamental inequality that exists in Canada today.

New legislation should be introduced as soon as possible. Maybe it would be useful if some of the members of the governing caucus who are most familiar with this file, started prodding the government in the right direction.

President Yushchenko's stalling is dangerous

By Oksana Bashuk Hepburn,

Ukrainians should be proud of what they accomplished during the parliamentary elections on March 26. Their choice reaffirmed their support for the values of the Orange Revolution: a pro-West president, clean-up of corruption and greater economic wealth through the re-privatization of questionably acquired state property. Over 45%, gave the parties belonging to the Orange forces their vote — the go-ahead to form a government to implement this platform.

However, President Victor Yushchenko does not appear to be listening. After nearly one month, there is little progress to form a government even though Ukraine badly needs one. There is little clarity why the Orange power parties — Yulia Tymoshenko's Bloc with 129 seats in the Rada, Nasha Ukrayina with 81, and the Socialist Party with 33 — a total of 243 — are not being asked to get going. At present, the President is calling for unity among the winners — it sounds like he is including the pro-Russia Party of Regions with 186 seats. Why? The Orange forces don't need this union to govern. Moreover, in a democracy monolithic unity is not a good idea: without a strong opposition to serve as people's watchdog, there is temptation for the insiders to cut favourable deals for themselves. Given Ukraine's record of government corruption, associated with the Party of Regions in particular, such cronyism is highly undesirable. Equally important, Russia's ability to manipulate Ukraine's government policy in its own interest — opposition to NATO and concentration of the former USSR's nuclear power in its hands — could make a coalition government, without a strong opposition, dangerous to world peace. Besides, thank-you very much, Ukraine has had nearly a century of the ultimate in political unity: communist dictatorship. Ukrainians should be every mindful of the dangers political unity carries.

By stalling, the President is undermining the will of the people and not helping him own reputation. Many blame him for splitting the Orange vote during the elections by firing former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Despite this, and thanks to her party's commanding win, the three Orange parties who made it past the barrier obtained enough votes to form a government for the next four years. For this she seeks, and rightfully deserves, the position of the Prime Minster. Asking her to put her political interests aside at this juncture, is inappropriate and begs the question: where do the President's interests lie?

The President's interests have not always been clear. After the 2002 Rada elections, Yushchenko allowed more than 20 of his party members to cross to President Kuchma's side, thereby loosing the rightfully won Nasha Ukrayina majority. Before that, there was his prominent absence from the anti-Kuchma demonstrations aimed at ousting his corrupt pro-Russia government.

He has made other questionable moves like firing former Prime Minster Yulia Tymoshenko. Some say he did it twice: last year, and at the bidding of president Kuchma in the late 1990's. Some of his statements in the recent election campaign were unhelpful by drawing attention to unfulfilled promises of the Orange Revolution. For instance, he spoke of punishing violators of the electoral process while the key violator of the 2004 elections, Sergij Kivilov, head of the Central Elections Commission was enjoying a sinecure as head of the justice department in Odesa's university. Even more incredulously, he ran for a seat in parliament on the Party of Regions ballot and now may be asked to join the ruling coalition!

The President's ineffective politics culminated in the gas fiasco with Russia. The situation to Ukraine could have been dire if the European Union, fearful that its gas may be cut-off, had not cried foul. But why did the President of Ukraine not lead the charge and cry foul when his own people were in danger of freezing? Why the hush-hush RosUkrEnergo deal? And why the on going lack of transparency on this matter?

To redeem himself, President Yushchenko must stop stalling and call for the formation of the government. If he is the pro-West democratic Ukrainian patriot of the Orange Revolution, he needs to ask Yulia Tymoshenko to form a government now. That was their vote. A true democrat will honour the will of the people.

However, if he is being lured into another sphere — one that, perhaps, favours Russia's interests over Ukraine's; is pro-oligarch rather than pro the people; or however is bound from responding clearly and transparently to the voters' choice, he will vacillate. He will do this by calling for unity dialogues, rationalizing the election results, catching paralyses by analyses, and stall until some powerful hand forces an option favorable to its self-interests, rather than those of Ukraine. This is the danger for Ukraine.

That force might be Victor Yanukhovych of the Party of Regions. However, having lost nearly half of the support he had during the presidentials of 2004, neither Russia nor the oligarchs see him as a winner. More than likely, it will be the Party's real money and power man, Renat Akhmetov. Considered one of the richest men in the world by Forbes magazine, on questionably acquired state properties in Ukraine, the lofty position as Prime Minister of the second largest country in Europe, will be good for Akhmetov. He aspires to be an international entrepreneur with a seat on international stack exchanges, including London's. This requires not only money, which he has, but respectability and gentrification, both of which come with a prime minister's title. But is this good for Ukraine?

The people did not think so. They did not choose this. Against all odds, they rallied around Yulia Tymoshenko. They elected her at the expense of the Party of Regions and the likes of Akhmetov. The President can respond to the will of the people or to other interests. His reputation in history and the future of Ukraine lie in his choice.

*Oksana Bashuk Hepburn is the President of U*CAN, a consulting firm in Canada, a former OSCE elections observer in Ukraine, and a commentator. This article previously appeared in the Kyiv Post and Maidan*

Defacement of internment monument constitutes a hate crime

By Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk

I feel soiled. I have never been robbed but friends who have tell me it takes a long time to get over the feeling of having your sanctum violated, of knowing strangers were where they had no right to be, of them taking away something intangible that can never be replaced.

In 1995, working with friends from across Canada, I helped unveil a trilingual bronze plaque, and a statue by the Kingston sculptor, John Boxtel, at the base of Castle Mountain, in Banff National Park. Even though the location is somewhat remote, the installation ceremony was an occasion. A few hundred people gathered to bear witness as priests from the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches in Canada blessed the site, hallowing the memory of those Ukrainians and other Europeans held there during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920. The internees had been forced to do heavy labour for the profit of their gaolers, everything from road construction and bridge building to improving the Banff Springs Hotel's golf course. Nearby you can still find the remains of the far-less exclusive concentration camp where they were herded. There are relics, bits and pieces of the barbed wire and fence posts that once kept those men captive, not because of anything they had done but only because of where they had come from, who they were. Of course, as they huddled in tents behind Canadian barbed wire, they had a remarkable view of mountain's ramparts above. Yet could any of them have enjoyed that vista? These "enemy aliens" were inmates, unjustly deprived of their freedoms, transported far from their loved ones and communities. It is the rare prisoner who finds his jail attractive.

Two plaques were actually unveiled. The larger provides a basic statement about what happened. You can't squeeze much text onto a plaque when what you want to say must appear in three languages. So we hoped it would be the smaller plaque that would challenge passers-by to wonder. It asks, simply — "Why?" — the very question the men at Castle Mountain, and later at Cave & Basin, must often have asked – Why were we rounded up when we did nothing wrong? Why are we forced to labour for others when prisoners of war do not have to work for their keepers? Why has this happened, when they invited us to come and help build up the Dominion? Why do they treat us as enemies when we are not, and never were?

The strange alliance

Ukrainian "progressive socialism" meets Russian "neo-Eurasianism"

By Andreas Umland,
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Lecturer, National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv.

One of the worrying results of the March 2006 elections to the Ukrainian parliament, Verkhovna Rada, was that the so-called "Popular Opposition" bloc led by the head of the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, Natal'ya Mikhailovna Vitrenko (b. 1951), managed to come close to passing the 3% barrier (with 2.93% of the official turnout) and thus almost entered the Rada. Vitrenko is the premier representative of radical anti-Westernism in Ukraine; she has also made herself known with her frequent invectives against Ukrainian politicians whom she does not hesitate to call "natsisty" (Nazis). Both of these circumstances are ironic in as far as Vitrenko has been for some time officially allied to a well-known Russian propagator of the West's worst invention: fascism.

Vitrenko, along with former UNA-UNSO and current "Bratstvo" leader Dmitro Korchinski, entered in 2004, and is now listed in the directory of members of, the Highest Council of the International Eurasian Movement. There was also an announcement in 2005 that Vitrenko and Korchinski were going to enter the Highest Council of the Eurasian Youth Movement, the International Eurasian Movement's youth section with branches in, among other countries, Ukraine. Both of these organizations, the International Eurasian Movement and Eurasian Youth Movement, have been created by, and are entirely devoted to the ideas of, a certain Aleksandr Gel'evich Dugin (b. 1962). Dugin has become famous in Russia during the last years and is more and more present in Russian mass media, but has not (yet) been broadly noted in Ukraine. He has, in Putin's Russia, made himself known as a "neo-Eurasianist" and fanatic anti-American. Dugin also occasionally describes himself as a "national bolshevist," "traditionalist," "conservative revolutionary" or "Guenonist" (with reference to the founder of West European "Traditionalism," Rene Guenon). As the latter terms indicate, Dugin's world-view is not only determined by indigenous Eastern Slavic ideas. Rather his ideology is, to a large degree, a variation of a number of ideas that had their origins in pre-war Western Europe. While Dugin poses as a radical anti-Westerner, his major concepts, in fact, are derived from Western theories. That Vitrenko has entered the ruling body of an organization fundamentally inspired by non-Slavic (and, sometimes, even anti-Slavic) Western sources might make Slavic anti-Westerners think.

There is more. In spite of his dubious sources, Dugin finds himself today in the company of a whole number of highly placed Russian political and social figures such as Minister of Culture Sokolov, Federation Council Deputy Speaker Torshin or Presidential Aide Aslakhanov who, like Vitrenko, Korchinskii and other post-Soviet figures, have entered the International Eurasian Movement's Highest Council. This circumstance makes it even more intriguing that, in the past, Dugin has made many, to say the least, unorthodox statements on world history. In particular, Dugin gave some unusual assessments of West European fascism. To be sure, Dugin has harshly criticized German, Italian and other fascisms, for instance, in his article "Fascism — red and borderless" which is a chapter of his book Tampliery Proletariata (The Knight Templars of the Proletariat). Yet, what Dugin blamed the fascist regimes and parties of inter-war Europe for was that they were too moderate, too incoherent, too soft, and not truly revolutionary. Fascism, such seems Dugin's view, is, in principle, an excellent idea. Unfortunately, in Dugin's opinion, it has, however, never been consistently implemented. That shall be different after the break-up of the Soviet Union. In Russia today, finally, there will emerge a truly "fascist fascism." In previous books published in the early 1990s, Dugin had already elaborated why exactly he thinks fascism is a good idea, the SS was an organization with positive characteristics, the break-up of the 1939 alliance between Hitler and Stalin constituted an unfortunate event, etc.

That Vitrenko has used terms like "Nazi" or "fascist" with a seemingly negative connotation is only to be welcomed. However, Vitrenko might, perhaps, before using liberally these for labeling her political opponents, first check whether her own close political allies fall under these categories. As far as Dugin is concerned, Vitrenko has, by entering the International Eurasian Movement's Highest Council, it appears, officially accepted intellectual leadership from somebody who has not hesitated to formulate repeatedly and explicitly a deep attraction to fascism.

A final note on Dugin might be worth adding in view of Vitrenko's recent frequent posing as a Ukrainian patriot. Dugin is not only notorious for his debt to Western radical anti-democratic ideas. He has, furthermore, made himself known by statements on the future of Ukraine not less extravagant than his statements on fascism. In his major book Osnovy geopolitiki (Foundations of Geopolitics), Dugin, for instance, writes that "[t]he sovereignty of Ukraine represents such a negative phenomenon for Russian geopolitics that it can, in principle, easily provoke a military conflict." Apart from a other similar statements about Ukraine as a whole, he, in "Osnovy geopolitiki," noted, with reference to Southern Ukraine, that "[a]n absolute imperative of Russian geopolitics on the Black Sea shores is the total and unlimited control by Moscow of [these shores] over their whole stretch — from the Ukrainian to the Abkhaz territory" Similar sentences can be found in "Osnovy geopolitiki and other publications by Dugin.

In view of the above and many comparable statements, it is bizarre that Dugin has managed to link himself institutionally to a whole number of top actors of the government, parliament, mass media, and civil society of Russia — a country that defines itself, even more than Ukraine, by its victory over fascism, is proud of its anti-fascist credentials, and claims to have brotherly feelings for Ukraine. What would be equally ironic is that, if Vitrenko is successful in her plan to force herself into the Verkhovna Rada through a recount, a Russian imperialist grouping, the International Eurasian Movement, led by a sworn enemy of Ukrainian independence and fanatic apologist of fascism would acquire an official representative in the Ukrainian parliament.

Defacement of monument a hate crime

As a scholar I have asked myself these questions for nearly two decades. To this day I do not have entirely satisfactory answers. We may never discern them, for the records of this dark chapter in our nation's history were erased from the national archives, deliberately, years ago. But I do know that at least some of those who have driven along Highway 1A, on the old road from Banff to Lake Louise, a roadway these prisoners were forced to help build, have appreciated our efforts to recover this little-known episode in Canadian history. Flowers, and sometimes coins, have been left behind by stoppers-by. We have wondered who these anonymous well-wishers were. We have collected those coins, taking this bounty into Banff, leaving it in churches to help others, in memory of the internees.

But a few days ago — or perhaps it was a few weeks ago — some miscreant, or perhaps a gaggle of hooligans, went out to the Castle Mountain site. There they etched an obscenity onto one plaque and scratched the letters *BS*, meaning bullshit, onto the other. A foul word can, of course, be dismissed as the effluence of an immature imbecile. But whoever did this went further, challenging the message of the plaques, disputing what makes the place where they stand so unique, as compared to any other place within the park. In doing so these still-at-large morons crossed a line. They defamed an entire community.

That constitutes a hate crime.

That the perpetrators were yobs, night crawlers without conviction, drug and alcohol addled to boot, is probable. Perhaps they are too stupid to know that they are guilty of a hate crime and that, if caught - and the Mounties claim they always get their man - we will be insisting they be prosecuted for it. The Castle Mountain site was not sacred for them. Too bad for them, for it is for us.

Our statue and plaques recall an episode of state-sanctioned xenophobia and prejudice that many wanted us to forget, that some denied had even happened. So, just as no one would expect anyone to ignore the sort of scum who scrawl a swastika onto a synagogue, so too we will insist on the punishment of the Banff Park punks.

Of course the plaques themselves must be repaired, or replaced. That will take time and money. But what do we do about the bigots of Banff?

Lubomyr Luciuk, PhD, is director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association

Russian Orthodox Church challenges 'Western' concept of human rights

By Igor Torbakov

(Jamestown Foundation)—In its persistent efforts to craft a new national ideology that would underscore Russia's "civilizational uniqueness" and distinguish it from the liberal West, the Kremlin leadership has turned to the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) — the country's most conservative and anti-Western institution. Predictably, the "unholy alliance" of state bureaucrats and church hierarchy proved to be not terribly inventive: it could come up only with a recycled credo of 19th century Russian conservatism — *Pravoslaviye*, *Samoderzhaviye*, *Narodnost* (Orthodoxy, Autocracy, Nationality).

On April 6, the Tenth World Council of Russian People adopted a "Declaration of Human Dignity and Rights," a document that appears to challenge the 1948 "Declaration of Human Rights" passed by the United Nations General Assembly. The new ROC manifesto openly questions the system of liberal values and effectively calls on Russian society to revise the universally accepted concept of human rights. The decision to elaborate a specifically ROC stance on the rights issue was taken at last year's Council: it was likely prompted by the Russian Church's conclusion that the secular understanding of human rights that came to Russia from the West does not correspond to Orthodox believers' moral and ethical views.

This idea was bluntly expressed at this year's gathering by none other than Patriarch Alexei II. "To what extent does this [Western] vision of human rights allow an Orthodox people to live in accordance with the faith it professes?" the Russian Church's spiritual leader asked. Alexei's personal stance on this issue is crystal clear, as he asserted that the spread of the Western conception of human rights would likely lead to the "revival of neo-paganism."

The World Council of Russian People has convened annually since 1993. It comprises secular civic organizations but acts under the "spiritual guidance" of the Russian Orthodox Church. The Council's head is Patriarch Alexei, who is assisted by two deputies — Metropolitan of Smolensk and Kaliningrad Kyril and the chairman of the Russian Writers' Union, Valery Ganichev.

Some independent analysts were quick to note that the pompous event that held its sessions on April 4-6 in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior was not so much a religious as a political undertaking. This was underscored not only by the explicitly political issue of human rights that the Council decided to focus on, but also by the significant number of high-ranking representatives of state power who attended the assembly. Quite remarkably, in their speeches, as one observer notes, "Some of these state officials, including the ministers of foreign affairs and of culture, appeared to be more conservative and value-oriented than even some of the church fathers."

The Council's participants forcefully denounced a "distorted vision of human rights" that they claim has become prevalent in the West. Two aspects of the Western liberal concept seem to be particularly alien to ROC beliefs. First, the Council blasted the idea of "moral autonomy." The modern understanding of human rights postulates that an individual's moral autonomy can be limited only by the autonomy of other individuals: there is no supreme authority that can help distinguish between good and evil. Such a vision is unacceptable to the Russian Orthodox Church, which holds that turning the sovereignty and rights of a separate individual into an absolute value without the counterbalance of moral responsibility will lead to the demise of modern civilization.

The second controversial aspect of the European liberal model, according to Russian Orthodoxy, is its assertion that an individual's rights are superior to the interests of any collectivity. "There are values that are no less important than human rights," defiantly declares the statement adopted by the Council. "These are faith, ethics, [national] sacraments, Fatherland."

At a time when Moscow is being criticized by the United States and Europe for backtracking on democracy, the Russian Church, true to its long-standing tradition of subservience to the state, has eagerly helped the Kremlin by joining the "ideological struggle" with the West.

Both Russia's secular potentates and the church hierarchs seem to share two main principles that lie at the heart of what can be called the *profession de foi* of Russian conservatism. First is the idea that "Russian civilization" is unique, based on a set of distinctive values and developing along a path different from that of the West. Second is that Russia is a great power that is capable of defending its own interests and those of its allies. Symptomatically, the "Orthodox declaration" denounced the Western "policy of double standards in the sphere of human rights as well as the attempts to use these rights for advancing political, ideological, military, and economic interests and for imposing a certain state or social system."

Interestingly, this approach dovetails nicely with the Kremlin's pet concept of "sovereign democracy." This notion has recently been given an extravagant interpretation. In the opinion of political analyst Vitaly Tretyakov, "The foreign term 'sovereignty' should be replaced… by a Russian analogue — 'autocracy' (*samoderzhaviye*), i.e. the desire and ability to independently define one's own destiny and rules of life in one's society." That is why the doctrine of sovereign democracy, Tretyakov argues, can be defined as "autocratic self-government" (*samoderzhavnoye samoupravleniye*)

It would seem that, ideologically, over the last 15 years Russia has come full circle. Having started with universal human values and a "common European home," it has ended up with Count Sergei Uvarov's famous triad designed to philosophically prop the conservative and anti-Western regime of Tsar Nicholas I.

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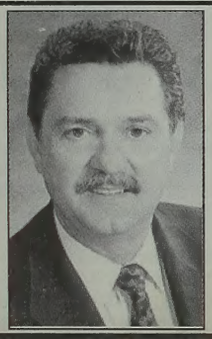

"Happy Easter to all members of our Ukrainian community."

Бажаю щасливого Великодня всім членам нашої української громади.
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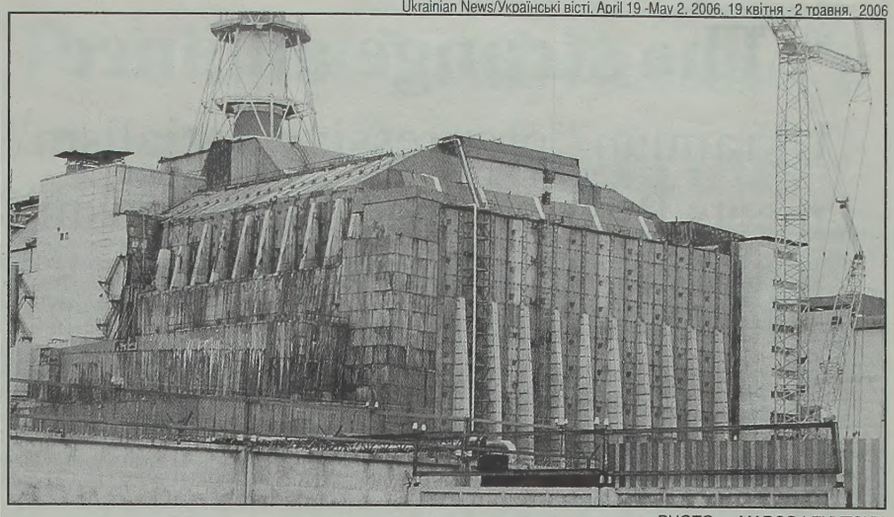

PHOTO — MARCO LEVYTSKY

The sarcophagus encasing the No. 4 reactor at Chornobyl.

Greenpeace says effects of Chornobyl grossly underestimated

(RFE/RL/UkrNews) — Greenpeace says tens of thousands of people are likely to die from cancers caused by radiation from the Chornobyl explosion 20 years ago.

A UN report predicts some 4,000 additional cancer deaths because of Chornobyl. But in a new report, the international environmental watchdog says the health effects of the explosion may have been grossly underestimated.

Thomas Breuer, a nuclear expert with the international environmental group, said on April 18 that "the newest study, published this year by the Russian Academy of Sciences, arrives at a figure of 93,000 potential fatal victims as a result of the Chornobyl reactor disaster."

Greenpeace says many of the deaths could be caused by thyroid cancer, with most of the fatalities in Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, the worst-affected countries.

Greenpeace says its report involved 52 respected scientists and includes information never before published in English. It challenges the International Atomic Energy Agency Chernobyl Forum report, which predicted 4,000 additional deaths attributable to the accident as a gross simplification of the real breadth of human suffering.

"The new data, based on Belarus national cancer statistics, predicts approximately 270,000 cancers and 93,000 fatal cancer cases caused by Chornobyl. The report also concludes that on the basis of demographic data, during the last 15 years, 60,000 people have additionally died in Russia because of the Chornobyl accident, and estimates of the total death toll for the Ukraine and Belarus could reach another 140,000," states a Greenpeace press release

"The report also looks into the ongoing health impacts of Chornobyl and concludes that radiation from the disaster has had a devastating effect on survivors; damaging immune and endocrine systems, leading to accelerated ageing, cardiovascular and blood illnesses, psychological illnesses, chromosomal aberrations and an increase in foetal deformations."

The explosion at a reactor at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine on April 26, 1986 was the world's worst civilian nuclear accident. According to Greenpeace, the Chornobyl disaster released 270 times more radiation than the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

"Radiation levels in the plant — at 15,000 times normal — were high enough to destroy the human nervous system in 30 minutes. More than two and a half million people are defined as 'Victims of Chernobyl' in the Ukraine alone while a fifth of land in Belarus was contaminated," says Greenpeace

The UN says 56 deaths so far can be directly connected to Chornobyl.

Between May and November 1986, a temporary sarcophagus was built at the site with the goal of quickly reducing on-site radiation levels and the further release of radioactive materials into the environment. The sarcophagus was erected quickly and under extremely difficult conditions, including the severe radiation exposure of construction workers. Because of efforts to complete the work quickly, imperfections were introduced in the structure. In addition, moisture-induced corrosion over the last 20 years has further degraded the construction. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, "the main potential hazard of the shelter is a possible collapse of its top structures and release of radioactive dust into the environment."

Plans have been developed to create a new structure, called the New Safe Confinement (NSC), over the No. 4 reactor. The NSC is designed to have a 100-year service life, and to allow for the dismantlement of the current sarcophagus and the removal of highly radioactive fuel from the reactor. NSC construction was originally scheduled to be completed in 2005, but has been repeatedly postponed. According to the latest schedule, the work is expected to be finished in February 2008.

May the Risen Christ brings you and your family peace, joy and contentment during this blessed Easter Holiday.
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Edmonton community to mark 20th anniversary of Chornobyl

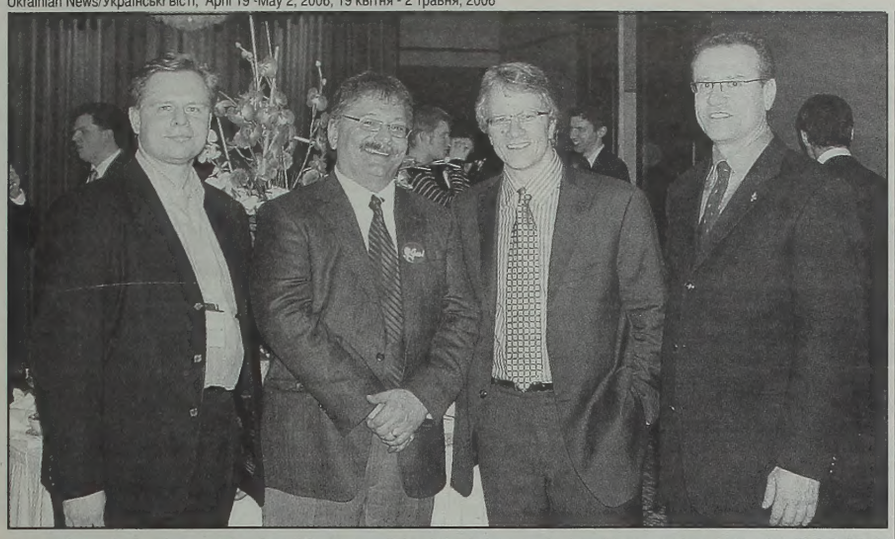
(Bottomline Productions) — April 26, 2006 marks the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Edmonton Branch, invites the public to attend a one-hour commemoration on April 26 at 7:00 p.m. at Edmonton City Hall.

The program will include:

- A brief ecumenical memorial service for victims.;
- An address by Dr. Bohdan Harasymiw, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Calgary.
- Several musical selections performed by local choirs. (One choral composition titled "Zhuravli" debuted here in Edmonton last November and is based on a poem written by a boy who lives near the Chornobyl area.)

Information regarding organizations helping victims of Chornobyl will be available. The public will also have the opportunity to make donations to these organizations if they wish.

A benefit art exhibition and sale takes place in conjunction with this in the foyer of Commerce Place on April 26 & 27 (8:30am – 5pm) with a portion of the proceeds being donated to the Children of Chornobyl Canadian Fund. Featured artists include Gene Prokop, Oksana Movchan, Iryna Karpenko and Valeiry Semenko. For more information, call Romana at 907-7742.



Gerard Kennedy poses with other Ukrainian Canadian Liberals during his reception at the April 7-9 LPCA Convention in Edmonton. Left to Right: Jason Golinowski, former Executive Assistant to former Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan; Andriy Hladyshevsky, Liberal Candidate for Edmonton Strathcona in the 2006 election; Gerard Kennedy; Etobicoke Centre MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj.

Ukrainian Canadian testing federal Liberal leadership

Cont. from P. 1

zenship and Immigration to reform the current citizenship revocation process in order to make it consistent with the Charter of Rights, Kennedy replied:

"I would say that human rights have to prevail. I don't think that there is a case to be made for a different set of rights… What you are referring to is the link to war crimes and so on. And from my standpoint, especially post-Charter, we need to have one standard of rights… I'd like to read, in more detail, the committee's recommendations before I endorse (them), but the principle you put to me I'm in agreement with."

The current system, which allows for the revocation of citizenship on the "balance of probabilities" as opposed to the criminal standard of "beyond a reasonable doubt" has been used to denaturalize Canadians of Ukrainian origin as supposed "Nazi war criminals" without the need to charge them with any criminal activity.

The committee recommendations, which are designed to remove that legal shortcut, have been endorsed by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Kennedy was educated at Trent University in Peterborough and the University of Alberta in Edmonton in political science and economics. In Edmonton, he worked as a historical researcher and then as the first executive director of the Edmonton Food Bank, Canada's first such organization, from 1983 to 1986. Two of his sisters live in Calgary. Kennedy was the executive director of Toronto's Daily Bread Food Bank from 1986 to 1996.

Kennedy was first elected as a Member of the Ontario Provincial Parliament for York South in a 1996 by-election to replace former Premier Bob Rae. Despite his political inexperience, he ran for the Ontario Liberal Leadership in 1996 and finished second to Dalton McGuinty. He was re-elected in 1999 and 2003 in the modified riding of Parkdale-High Park, which has a large Ukrainian Canadian community, by a 3 to 1 margin over his nearest competitor. In 2002, he was chosen as one of the city's "Torontonians of Distinction."

He was appointed Minister of Education when the Liberals won the 2003 Ontario election. In government, Kennedy also served as a member of the Planning and Priorities Board of Cabinet.

Kennedy speaks French and is married to Jeanette Arsenault, a day care professional and Acadian Francophone from Prince Edward Island. They currently reside in Toronto with their two children.

UCC 'disappointed' with omission in Throne Speech

(UkrNews)—The Ukrainian Canadian Congress says it is disappointed with the lack of any reference to redress of the World War I Ukrainian internment operations in the Throne Speech.

"The Ukrainian Canadian Congress notes that the Speech from the Throne read on 4 April 2006 by the Governor General, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean on behalf of the Federal Government mentions that 'The Government will act in Parliament to offer an apology for the Chinese Head Tax'," stated the UCC in an April 5 press release.

"The UCC is disappointed that there is no explicit commitment in the Throne Speech to a final conclusion of redress for Canada's First National Internment Operation which saw in 1914-1920 thousands of Ukrainian Canadians unjustly interned by the Federal Government. Additionally, the UCC calls on the Federal Government to live up to the Agreement in Principle signed with the Ukrainian Canadian community in August of 2005 and the spirit of Bill C-331 which bind the Government to negotiate a final settlement on this issue with the community," it continues.

"The UCC believes that well-delivered foreign aid is an important facet of Canadian foreign policy. Therefore, the UCC agrees with the Government's plan for 'more effective use of Canadian aid dollars'. The UCC expects that Canada's commitment to funding international development projects in Ukraine remains at the same or at a higher level. As well the UCC believes that by leveraging the expertise offered by Canadian NGO's and ethnocultural communities in the delivery of foreign development programs, Canadians receive a better return on their investment in this important activity," states the UCC.

Happy Easter!
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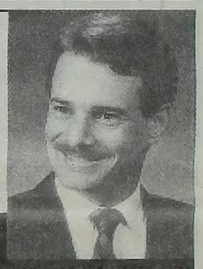

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Mazeppa brings down the house

U of M's CUCS marks 25th anniversary

Reviewed by Robert B. Klymasz, Ph.D., *Curator (Emeritus), Canadian Museum of Civilization*

A crowd of 300 (including both chancellor William Norrie and president Emoke Szathmary of the University of Manitoba) filled the St. John's College Chapel on the campus for a special performance March 26. First, the event marked 25 years of the Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies (CUCS) as a unit of the U of M. Second, the program proved to be a significant exploration of the influence of Ukrainian music on world culture.

Since its inception in 1981 the CUCS has used many of its resources to examine cultural interaction as an important aspect of Canada's Ukrainian heritage. In keeping with this facet of the Centre's profile, this program of choral music showcased the confluence of different musical cultures. The talents of two choirs – one community-based, the other university-based, — demonstrated this phenomenon in a performance of rarities that underlines the Centre's commitment to exploring the frontiers of Ukrainian life and culture in Canada. To mark its first quarter of a century, the U of M's Centre for CUCS mined the treasure trove of archives in search of this music.

Divided into two parts, the concert was emceed by CBC's amiable broadcaster Andrea Ratuski, host of *Northern Lights*, who provided continuity through her narrative.

Dubbed "The Unknown Koshetz" in the printed program, the first part featured Winnipeg's esteemed Oleksander Koshetz Choir under the able direction of Tetyana Rodionova. Drawing on the works of its namesake, the choir performed eleven a cappella choral arrangements by Koshetz (1875-1944) to underline the intersection of different musical traditions: French Canadian, Indian, Scottish, Afro-American, and Ukrainian. For added interest, some works were sung in Ukrainian, others in English, some in translation (Ukrainian or English), and two works were sung alternating between Ukrainian and English.

As an academic and ethnomusicologist who was ahead of his time, Koshetz believed that it was imperative to explore the music of all nations. He believed that the way to understand the cultures of the world was not only through literature and politics and customs, but also through music. So he produced several volumes of international music. This program focused on this unknown and mostly forgotten dimension of Olexander Koshetz.

Of the many highlights, *Honolulu Hula Hey*, a Koshetz arrangement sung in Ukrainian, set the stage for the unique music to follow. *Old Folks at Home* by Stephen Foster was presented in an absolutely wonderful Koshetz arrangement featuring the choir humming in harmony, a technique for which Koshtez was famous. The second verse, sung in Ukrainian, brought tears to some in the audience. In *O Susanah* the voices of the choir imitated the sounds of a banjo. After the final number, *Hrychanyky*, the choir received an instant standing ovation and vigorous applause.

The second half of the program featured a campus-based choir — the University of Manitoba Women's Choir conducted by Professor Henry Engbrecht from the University's Faculty of Music. This choir presented the North American premiere of a forgotten cantata, *The Page*, about one of the most noted figures in Ukrainian history, Ivan Mazeppa (1645-1709). His phoenix-like career grabbed the imagination of noted Irish composer, Michael Balfe (1808-1870), who composed this work in a style reminiscent of Gilbert and Sullivan.

During the last half of the 19th century, Balfe was considered one of the two preeminent British composers, the other being Sir Arthur Sullivan. The online website "People Play UK" writes that "The first performance of Balfe's *Mazeppa* was sung at Exeter Hall London England, in June 1862. The episode with the horse was represented instrumentally, accompanied by the 'suffering accents' of Mazeppa."

The Balfe *Mazeppa* stands in sharp contrast to the Tchaikovsky opera *Mazeppa* which only two weeks earlier was given its Metropolitan Opera premiere in New York. In Tchaikovsky's opera, Mazeppa is the villain; in the Balfe cantata, he is the romantic hero.

Conductor Henry Engbrecht was so taken with this forgotten work that he programmed it for a second performance which was held one week later, at St. Mary's Cathedral in downtown Winnipeg to an audience of choral music aficionados…and to a second full house!

In this North American premiere of Balfe's cantata, Mazeppa is a youthful attendant (the "page") in the court of a Polish nobleman whose wrath is unleashed when he learns of Mazeppa's affair with his beautiful daughter ("Teresa"). In keeping with legend, Mazeppa is made to suffer for his transgression: he is stripped and tied face-up onto the back of a wild horse. Both man and beast are sent out into the wild steppes of

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UCU produces film on 1946 Lviv Pseudosobor

(RISU)—On April 13 Ukraine's Tonis TV Channel broadcast the film "To Understand and Forgive," about the 1946 Lviv Pseudosobor (pseudoassembly). It is a documentary based on archival materials. The Institute of Ecumenical Studies and the Institute of Church History of the Ukrainian Catholic University worked on its production.

The film's participants are historians, religious scholars, journalists, and theologians, representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate, Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate, Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, and Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC).

The film, lasting 25 minutes, depicts the tragic events of 1946 in the spirit of ecumenical dialog and reconciliation.

The Lviv "Sobor" was called from March 8 to 10, 1946 by an initiative group including three priests who represented three eparchies of the UGCC. The initiative group was confirmed by the Council of People's Commissars of the Ukrainian SSR as "a temporary church-administrative organ of the Greek Catholic Church" with the goal of uniting it with the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC). Before the sobor, all the hierarchs of the UGCC had been sentenced to prison or exile in hard-labor camps. The sobor declared the liquidation of the Union of Brest of 1596, by which the UGCC went into union with Rome, and united the UGCC with the ROC. Representatives of the UGCC consider the sobor uncanonical because it violated church canons, the members of the initiative group had joined the Orthodox church before the sobor, and the Soviet authorities were exerting pressure on the delegates.

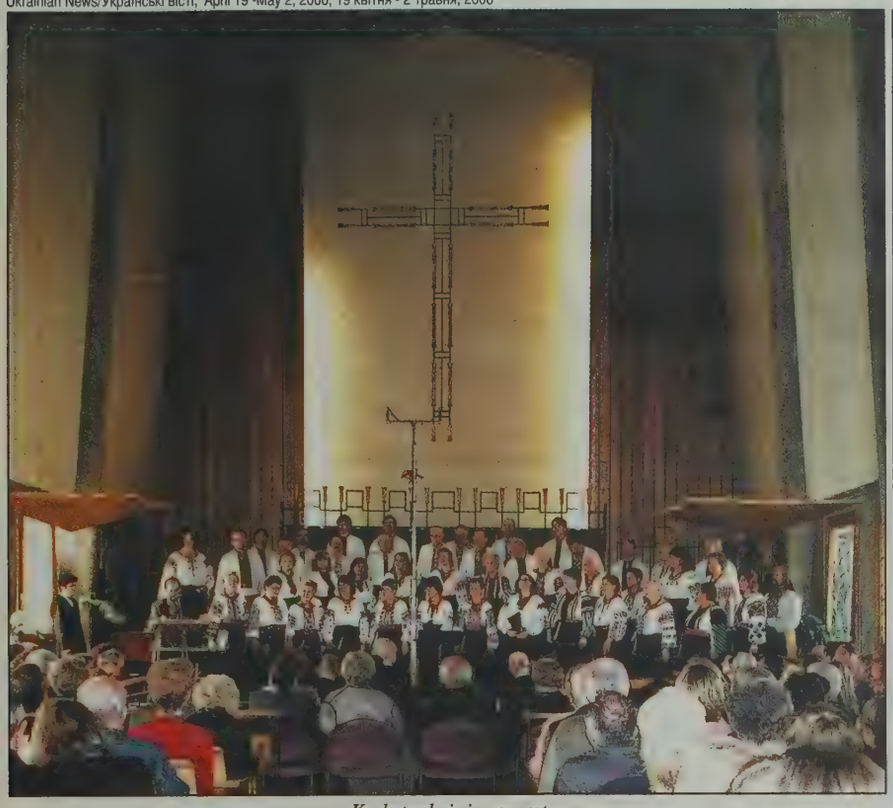
Ancient treasure hoard found near Lviv

(RIA Novosti)—A hoard of ancient treasure has been found in Lviv region, according to media reports.

According to Segodnya daily, a local resident out hunting for mushrooms near the village of Podgorishche accidentally discovered several well preserved diadems, necklaces and bracelets. He reported the find to archeologists who found a total of 35 pieces of jewelry.

A local museum curator said such ancient treasures, estimated to date from the 6th-1st century BC, had never been found in Ukraine before. Some of the items are made of bronze and some of silver.

Experts say such discoveries are extremely rare and have tremendous historical and cultural value.



Koshetz choir in concert.

Mazeppa brings down the house

Ukraine to meet a cruel fate. Luckily, Mazeppa is rescued by a band of passing cossacks. And the rest, as they say, is history. Mazeppa recovers from his ordeal. He rises through the ranks, and ultimately becomes hetman (ruler) of Ukraine.

Once again, the audience seemed entranced by the uniqueness of the work. The finale, "Long Live Mazeppa" brought down the house, received a standing ovation and an encore.

In keeping with the Centre's ongoing research into cultural interaction, this was a concert filled to the brim with international, multicultural nuances. The acoustics were superior, both choirs were well-rehearsed and looked great, and the Chapel's intimate setting added to the ambiance of warmth and celebration — an atmosphere which permeated the celebration.

The anniversary concert was followed by a reception hosted at St. Andrew's College only a short walk away, not hard to take on a glorious sunny afternoon. And the University President was smiling.

Greek Catholic receives highest award of Autocephalous Orthodox

(RISU)—Following the decree of Archbishop Ihor Isichenko of Kharkiv and Poltava of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC), Ukrainian National Deputy Mykhailo Kosiv, a member of the Committee on Issues of Spirituality and Freedom of Conscience at the Ukrainian Parliament and a layman of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, will be awarded the Medal of Patriarch Mstyslav, the highest honor of the UAOC. Kosiv has become the fourth Knight of the Medal of Patriarch Mstyslav. RISU's Ukrainian-language site posted the news on April 10.

"Mykailo Kosiv's firm and discreet position as to church policy and his numerous interpellations and addresses to state officials and his mission as mediator in relations between church communities and the government have made a great contribution to resolving interdenominational conflicts and conflicts between church and state, in particular regarding the revival of the constitutional rights of eastern Ukraine's community of the UAOC," reads the report of the UAOC Eparchy of Kharkiv and Poltava. "Kosiv's political activity demonstrates his own active evangelical service, deep Christian faith, and subtle feeling of the common Ukrainian-Byzantine tradition as a basis for a partnership between the divided branches of the Kyivan church. Therefore the initiative to award Mykhailo Kosiv the Medal of Patriarch Mstyslav received general approval and support of the clergy and laity of the Kharkiv-Poltava Eparchy of the UAOC."

Honoring the 100th anniversary of Patriarch Mstyslav (1898-2003), the Patriarchal Council of the UAOC established the Medal of Patriarch Mstyslav, the highest award for secular politicians. This award is given on April 10, Patriarch Mstyslav's birthday, to the politician who has distinguished himself for spreading Christian values and defending the social rights of Ukraine's church community.

Newsbriefs

Ukraine wants CIS genocide recognition

(Channel 5)—Ukraine's Foreign ministry will ask the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to recognize the Holodomor of 1932-33 as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people. MFA spokesman Vasyl Filipchuk made the announcement on April 18. The request will be put forward when the CIS Council of Ministers convenes in Moscow on April 2. Filipchuk said that recognition of the Holodomor as genocide is an "issue of honor" for the Ukrainian people.

5-year gas guarantee sought

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine, in talks with its gas supplier RosUkrEnergo, will insist on keeping natural gas prices unchanged during the next five years, an official at Naftogaz Ukrayiny, the national oil and gas company, said April 18. Yaroslav Dykovytskiy, the head of economic department at Naftogaz, said the prices are fixed at $95 per 1,000 cubic meters for the next five years in a contact signed with RosUkrEnergo.

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Іспанія

(СКУ)—З 8 до 12 березня року Аскольд Лозинський, Президент Світового Конгресу Українців, відвідав українські громади Іспанії. Феномен життєдайності української громади у Іспанії не є цілком новим явищем, але на сьогодні кількісний склад громади ще не визначений.

Після Другої світової війни тут осіло зовсім небагато українців. На сьогодні ж їх кількість сягає чотирьохсот тисяч (за словами лідерів української громади, на території Іспанії проживає близько шестисот тисяч). Проте лише двадцять п'ять відсотків з них перебувають на території цієї країни легально. Найбільша концентрація української еміграції в містах Мадрид, Валенсія, Морсія, Аліканте, Севілья та Вілларобредо.

Крім зростаючих торгових відносин (минулого року товарообіг між Україною та Іспанією перевищував один більйон доларів), одним з найважливіших питань для України є досягнення угоди про еміграцію з Іспанією. Переговори вже ведуться кілька років, і на сьогодні законопроект уже знаходиться у стадії детального розгляду у Міністерстві Закордонних справ Іспанії. У цей проект входить комплекс проблем, які не обмежуються тільки працевлаштуванням, але й передбачають питання пенсійного забезпечення і т.п. На сьогодні поки що ніякої широкої легалізації/амністії українських емігрантів у Іспанії не передбачається. Уряд Іспанії відпрацьовує та впроваджує в дію особливі міграційні правила щодо працівників-мігрантів, а також вводить у різних регіонах України, наприклад в Чернівцях, видачу візи у посольстві Іспанії в Києві. У Мадриді знаходиться українське посольство, хоча штат невеликий і протягом деякого часу його очолює повірений у справах. Крім посольства, у Барселоні діє генеральне консульство та доручено відкрити додаткове консульство. Незважаючи на відсутність посла та невеликий штат, посольство дуже активно допомагає українським іммігрантам, в т. ч. й у налагодженні зв'язків з іспанськими урядовцями.

Під час перебування в Іспанії президент СКУ зустрівся з працівниками посольства та мав зустрічі на високому рівні з кількома іспанськими міністрами/відділами праці та суспільної опіки, імміграції, інтеграції, культури, освіти та науки, організовані амбасадою.

Українська громада дуже добре організована та має структури у місцях великого скупчення українців, до яких входять церкви, громадські центри та суботні школи. Церкви в основному не належать українській громаді, але через посередництво іспанських католицьких церков послуги надаються безкоштовно або за невелику плату. Додатково робота громади координується Федерацією українських асоціацій Іспанії, яка розташована у Валенсії та є членом Світового Конгресу Українців. 10 березня Федерацією українських асоціацій Іспанії була організована конференція під назвою "Україна-Іспанія: крок до Європи" у Валенсії, де були присутні представники з Іспанії та України. Крім цього, 11 березня Комісією допомоги українським громадянам за кордоном при СКУ було проведено інформативне зібрання, після якого відбулася культурна програма у Валенсії. Можливо, найбільш позитивною характеристикою українців у Іспанії, крім їх кількості, є їх склад. Громада молода, до неї входять як жінки, так і чоловіки й діти, надзвичайно інтелігентна, користується повагою у іспанців. Важливо зазначити, що в Іспанії дозволяється мати нерухомість як легальним громадянам, так і іноземцям. Вірогідність тривалого існування цієї громади дуже висока.

Португалія

З 15 до 18 березня Лозинський відвідав українську громаду в Португалії. Вона нараховує приблизно двісті тисяч українців, які в основному прибули до Португалії протягом останніх семи років. Лише одна третина з них має легальний статус. Щодо свого складу громада різноманітна (чоловіки, жінки, діти), середній вік – після тридцяти, високоосвічена. Види робіт, на яких працюють українці, - від службовців на адміністративній службі до водіїв таксі.

У березні 2005 року укладено договір між Україною та Португалією відносно видачі робочих віз терміном не більше, ніж на один рік, з можливістю їх продовження за умови наявності контракту з португальським працедавцем. Договір передбачає повний захист і безпеку для місцевих працівників. Однак, як свідчить статистика, лише незначна частина прибулих заробітчан має цей статус. Досить помітною в Іспанії є участь українського уряду через посередництво дуже активного посольства в Ліссабоні та нещодавно відкритого в північній частині країни консульства в Порто. Як виняток, у консульстві була відкрита друга виборча дільниця до березневих виборів 2006 року. У зв'язку з тим, що товарообіг між Україною і Португалією незначний (17 мільйонів за останній рік), основною функцією дипломатичних представництв є обслуговування громадян України за кордоном, надання основних консульських послуг (видача паспортів новонародженим, продовження дії паспортів громадянам України і т.п.), надання можливості взяти участь у голосуванні тощо. Португалія має тенденцію імпортувати товари зі своїх колишніх колоній – Бразилії, Анголи, Мозамбіку, Тімору та Макау. Однак, незважаючи на зростаюче безробіття, Португалія приймає іммігрантів, оскільки одна третина португальців проживає за межами Португалії, не включаючи тих, хто проживає у Бразилії. За своєю кількістю українці займають третє місце серед іммігрантів Португалії.

Найвищою українською громадською організацією є національна координаційна організація - Спілка українців Португалії, що об'єднує близько 20 відділів. Спілка встановила добрі відносини з Португальськими урядовими установами, в першу чергу з тими, які займаються справами іммігрантів, як наприклад зі спеціальним уповноваженим у справах еміграції та етнічних меншин, а також з владою на місцях, яка часто фінансує різні проекти та забезпечує виділення приміщень для адміністрації, шкіл та для проведення культурних заходів. Українська католицька церква співпрацює з українською громадою і дістає велику щедру підтримку від Португальської Католицької Церкви та її Патріарха. Українська церква Португалії підпорядковується безпосередньо Українській Католицькій Церкві в Україні.

Під час візиту до Португалії Президент СКУ зустрівся з представниками українських дипломатичних служб, зокрема з Послом Ростиславом Троненком, який супроводжував президента СКУ протягом усього часу; зі спеціальним уповноваженим у справах еміграції та етнічних меншин та з іншими офіційними особами високого рівня м. Ліссабон. Крім цього, Президент СКУ зустрівся з керівництвом Спілки та членами її відділів, з представниками засобів масової інформації, Українських Католицьких Церков у м. Ліссабон та м. Фатіма, та відвідав суботню школу в м. Ліссабон. Українська громада Португалії (українці становлять 5% від загальної кількості населення), має гарні перспективи на довге існування.

Італія

З 4 по 20 березня Лозинський відвідав українські громади в Італії з невеликими інтервалами у Іспанії та Португалії. Він побував у трьох регіональних центрах: Венеції на півночі, Римі у центрі та Ніаполі на півдні.

Італія - член Великої Сімки та Євросоюзу, має ослаблену економіку. Її населення 63 млн, яке складається переважно з людей похилого віку. Відносини Італії з Україною дуже важливі, в усякому разі для України, адже у тор–

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Оксана Бризгун – Соколик

Під закликом «Пам'ятаймо!» відбувся в Торонті величавий концерт для відмічення 20–ої річниці Чорнобильської трагедії. Концерт був в Рой Томсон Гол 9–го квітня, організаторами було товариство «Канадський фонд – Дітям Чорнобиля».

Заповнена величезна концертова заля тепло вітала понад 200 хористів об'єднаних хорів: Elmer Iseler Singers, Amadeus Choir, The Orpheus Choir of Toronto, Веснівка та Торонтський Український Чоловічий Камерний Хор. Перед концертом на двох великих екранах над сценою пробігали прозірки з Чорнобиля та околиць з вияснениям подій того трагічного 26–го квітня 1986 року.

Першим твором у програмі був «Блажен Муж» молодого композитора з України, Олександра Козаренка. Твір хоч короткий, але настроєво дуже добре підібраний до початку урочистої імпрези. Всі злучені хори відразу показали гарну зіспіваність, добру рівновагу поміж голосами, дисципліну, дуже добру вимову українського тексту та відчуття релігійної композиції. Приємним солістом був Даґ МакНотон, у частинному заступстві Павла Гуньки, який в той вечір не міг позбутися настирливого ляринґіту. Диригувала Галина Квітка Кондрацька.

Найбільшим твором концерту був "Wormwood" – Полин – Чорнобиль канадського композитора грецького походження Крістос Гатціса. Твір в 9–ох частинах для хору, тріо і солістів. Виконавцями були знова всі збірні хори, Gryphin Trio – Джеймі Паркер – піяно, Анналі Патіпатанакон – скрипка, та Роман Борис – чельо. Вони ж і замовили цей твір у композитора для відзначення трагедії. Солістами були Павло Гунька, якого частинно заступав Даґ МекНотон, та дитяче сопрано – 14–літня Лорін Саундерс. Твір побудований на словах з книги Апокаліпсиса, в якій слово Apshintos = Чорнобиль означає «зірку смерти», передбачує падіння зорі на землю, затроєння води та смерть багатьох людей… Слова книги доповнені словами композитора творили цілість пророчого жаху на землі, що композитор цікаво змальовував дисонансами, динамічними змінами, різким ритмом, та лагідними ліричними контрастами. Слова тексту: «…Сім ангелів зі семи сурмами голосили лихо світові…» та моменти, як на приклад розпачливий викрик Павла Гуньки «…люди хотіли померти, але смерть втікала від них…», викликали мурашки на шкірі. Частина тексту була говорена, не співана, що творило особливий настрій напруги. Остання частина твору "Welcome to the Jerusalem" повна бадьорости та оптимізму була гармонійним контрастом до дисонантної драматичної цілости.

Солістка – дитина сповіщала про народження нової землі, про новий Єрусалим, де буде Світло, бо темні дні вже минули… Світова прем'єра твору пройшла дуже успішно, хори, тріо і солісти вив'язалися в тій ритмічно і тонально нелегкій, складній композиції бездоганно. Диригувала Лідія Адамс. Присутній композитор був вдоволений виконанням.

Після перерви ми мали велику насолоду слухати «Панахиду за жертв Чорнобиля» Романа Гурка, нашого торонтського композитора. Прекрасний молитовний настрій, чудова зіспіваність, виразна дикція українського тексту всіх хористів та приємний теплий та молитовний голос Павла Гуньки в ролі священника та диякона створили атмосферу буття поза концертною залею: Ми наче молилися, деколи навіть хотілося перехреститися… Для мене особисто цей твір був найглибший своєю щирою молитовністю за жертв Чорнобиля. Диригувала Галина Квітка Кондрацька. Присутнього Романа Гурка вітали оплесками.

Перед останнім твором у програмі був показ прозірок праці Канадського Фонду Дітям Чорнобиля. Монтаж був цікавий та інформативний.

Останній твір "The Hour Has Come" також торонтського композитора. Сруль Ірвін Ґлік написав цю «Хоральну симфонію» в 6–ох частинах до слів/поеми Лекнера, для хору та оркестри. Тут ми почули 6–ту частину з фортепіяном та органами. Композитор прекрасно передав зміст 6–ої частини: Вселюдську любов та надію. Після всіх світових катастроф твір кінчається тріумфальним: «Вже прийшла година любови!» Піяніст Пітер МекДоналд та органіст Пітер Тіфенбах і хори під диригентурою Лідії Адамс вміло змалювали образ радости та перемоги.

Люксусова програмка в чорній обгортці мала інформації про композиторів, виконавців, хори, тексти творів і т.д. Концерт був безперечно успіхом товариства, комітетів, добровольців, всіх виконавців концерту а головно членів програмового комітету: Галини Квітки Кондрацької, Романа Гурка та Романа Бориса. Громада вдячна Павлові Гунці, оперному співакові світової слави, що помимо хвороби та заанґажованість у Канадській Опері, своїм мистецьким виступом збагатив відзначування сумної річниці. Багато неукраїнців на залі мали змогу довідатися про нашу трагедію і нашу поміч жертвам Чорнобиля.

Бурхливими оплесками та повстанням з крісел присутні щиро подякували виконавцям та організаторам за гідне відзначення трагедії Чорнобиля, яку завжди будемо пам'ятати!

Голова СКУ відвідав українські громади в південній Европі

гівлі Італія займає друге місце після Німеччини і минулого року загальна сума товарообороту між обома країнами становила більше ніж 3 більйони доларів. Торгівельний баланс складається на користь України у сімсот мільйонів доларів. Україна експортує вироби хімічної та металургічної промисловості, в той час як Італія експортує готові вироби, такі як одяг і т. п. Італія стала тимчасовим домом для мільйона українців за останні роки, хоча тільки двадцять відсотків з них знаходяться у країні легально.

Рішучий переїзд українців до Італії, тимчасовий чи ні, можна пояснити кількома факторами: несуворий контроль та схильність до корупції на італійській митниці; можливість отримання роботи, особливо для жінок середнього віку по догляду за старими, які переважають у італійському суспільстві; періодичні амністії на легалізацію та легкий переїзд машинами, автобусами та літаками. Легальна та нелегальна автобусна мережа з України до Італії - з Неаполя до Мілану - надає можливість людям легально та нелегального переїзджати, а також надсилати посилки та гроші.

Уряд України представлений через амбасади у Римі та Ватікані, а також генеральне консульство у Мілані. Стосунки між дипломатичним персоналом та українськими іммігрантами, в основному громадянами України, покращалися з того часу, як відбулися вибори в Україні у грудні 2004 року. Найбільш важливою організаційною силою для українців у Італії є Українська Католицька Церква, яка має постійні будівлі, однак, тільки у Римі. Приблизно дев'яносто українських громад наймають приміщення, куди приїжджають священики, щоб відправляти служби божі. Італійська Римо-Католицька Церква надає допомогу та координує діяльність безпосередньо та посередньо через різні структури, наприклад, Карітас.

Громада має свої структури, хоч вона ще не централізована, має регіональні та місцеві спілки, такі як: Християнське товариство українців у Італії, Товариство українців в Італії, Культурна асоціація Україна Плюс, Асоціація українських жінок, Асоціація українських жінок-робітниць. Сучасне керівництво громад активно шукає та встановлює зв'язки з місцевою владою, профспілками, міжнародними організаціями (Червоний Хрест та Міжнародна Організація Міграції, з якою співпрацюють у сфері торгівлі людьми) та засобами масової інформації. Декілька громад можуть похвалитися тим, що мають суботні та недільні українські програми для дітей, яким місцеві урядовці та організації надають шкільне приміщення. Вчителі самі привозять підручники з України, бо Міністерство освіти України мало допомагає. Окрім загальних питань легалізації, існує дуже велика потреба у підписанні договору між Україною та Італією відносно одержання пенсійного забезпечення з Італії в Україні.

Оскільки середній вік українських іммігрантів у Італії приблизно за сорок років, і це в основному жінки, чоловіки та діти яких знаходяться на Україні, майбутнє української громади ще не зовсім ясне. У громаді часом відбувається об'єднання сімей та одруження, що хоч забезпечує існування невеликої громади. Однак, це лише завчасний аналіз, поки Україна не досягла рівня найбідніших країн ЄС.

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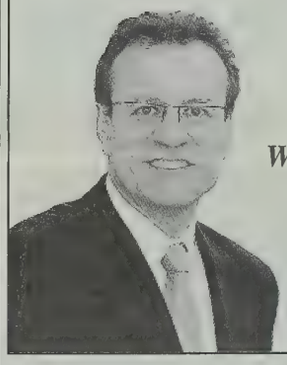

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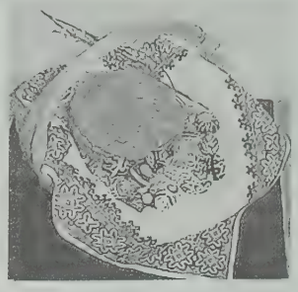

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Peacekeepers return from Lebanon

(Ukrainian Radio)—110 Ukrainian peacekeepers came home April 11 in accordance with the plan of withdrawal of the military and materiel of the 3rd detached engineering battalion of the Armed Forces of Ukraine servicing with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The 3rd detached engineering battalion had been on a peacekeeping mission to Lebanon since July 22, 2000. Over the mission period, the Ukrainian peacekeepers checked the area of almost 550 square meters and marked 17,900 minefields.

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Христос Воскрес! Christ is Risen!

Tymoshenko sets out to oust new mayor of Kyiv

By Oleg Varfolomeyev

(Jamestown Foundation)—Banker Leonid Chernovetsky has managed to secure the legitimacy of his election as Kyiv mayor. On April 10, the Shevchenkivsky district court in Kyiv ruled that there was no proof of vote buying by Chernovetsky. Outgoing mayor Oleksandr Omelchenko had accused Chernovetsky of buying votes and demanded that his victory be invalidated.

However, Chernovetsky's position remains shaky. The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) has forged a strong alliance to oppose the new mayor at the Kyiv city council, and is seeking a rerun of the mayoral election in order to topple Chernovetsky. His election has bared yet another rift between the Orange Revolution partners, as the deputies elected to the Kyiv council from the Socialists and President Viktor Yushchenko's People's Union-Our Ukraine party (NSNU) apparently have nothing against Chernovetsky.

In the run-up to the March 26 mayoral poll, the YTB was pronouncedly neutral. Its candidate, Mykola Tomenko, had withdrawn long before the race started in earnest, and the YTB did not back either Omelchenko or his key challengers, Chernovetsky and boxing champion Vitaly Klitchko. The YTB, however, won more seats than any other party in the election to the city council — 41 out of 120 — and Tymoshenko's ally Mykhaylo Brodsky, who is expected to chair the YTB faction in the council, offered support to Chernovetsky, reportedly expecting backing for his bid for the post of council secretary in return.

Chernovetsky, however, made it clear that he has a candidate for that position from his own, eponymous bloc. This may have triggered the conflict. On April 15, YTB people, their satellites from the Civic Active of Kyiv (GAK), and the Pora-Reforms and Order liberal bloc (Pora-RiP) ignored the first post-election session of the Kyiv council, which was scheduled to formalize Chernovetsky's election.

Chernovetsky was in a difficult situation, as convening the council without the three parties would not have a quorum. Thus, according to law, Chernovetsky could not have been sworn in. Chernovetsky was saved by three deputies from Pora-RiP, who broke ranks and took their seats. A visibly nervous Chernovetsky was then sworn in.

On the same evening, Tomenko gathered a press conference to announce the creation of a "coalition of democratic forces" called "Fair Kyiv." According to Tomenko, the coalition including YTB, GAK, and Pora-RiP has a majority, with 62 of the 120 seats in the city council. (But without the three dissenters who attended Chernovetsky's inauguration, Fair Kyiv would be two seats short of a majority.) He also said that Fair Kyiv had elected Klitchko as its leader, and that they would seek a new election for mayor of Kyiv.

Tomenko argued that Chernovetsky has failed to present an action plan for the development of Kyiv, that his legitimacy was in question because he scored only slightly more than 30% of votes in the election, and that Chernovetsky's coalition, "including the Party of Regions and the NSNU," was "a challenge to Kyivites."

Representatives of the opposition Party of Regions (PRU) of Viktor Yanukovych and the NSNU had indeed been among those deputies who did not boycott the council's first sitting. This prompted the YTB to accuse the NSNU of cooperating with the PRU in the council in violation of previous agreements on a parliamentary coalition, which apparently rules out cooperation with the PRU at any level, including local councils. On April 17, Tymoshenko forbade her own bloc members to join any local alliances with the PRU. She threatened potential dissenters with expulsion.

Tomenko and Tymoshenko said that the Kyiv "coalition" between the NSNU and the PRU was "unnatural." For some reason, however, they abstained from castigating the Socialists, whose representatives attended Chernovetsky's swearing in along with NSNU and PRU deputies. Tymoshenko's accusations against Yushchenko's party in this case may be an exaggeration as, unlike Fair Kyiv, the NSNU and the PRU did not formalize any alliance at the council.

The quarrel over Chernovetsky coincided with another dangerous development for the Orange coalition. On April 14, the NSNU rejected an accord reached with the YTB and the Socialists a day earlier, which in transparent terms stipulated that the post of prime minister in the alliance would go to Tymoshenko. Yushchenko's reluctance to return Tymoshenko the post from which he fired her last year, and her reluctance to accept a coalition on different terms, has so far been the main problem in the talks on re-establishing the Orange coalition. The rift over Kyiv mayor should only deepen the mistrust between Yushchenko's team and Tymoshenko.

The creation of Fair Kyiv, meanwhile, has apparently triggered the dissolution of the Pora-RiP bloc. On April 17 Pora leader Vladyslav Kaskiv announced that the bloc had ceased to exist because its leader, Klitchko, had joined Fair Kyiv without consent from Pora. Kaskiv, however, did not make it clear whether his people will be in the opposition to Chernovetsky.

Court halts publication of election results

(RFE/RL)—Ukraine's Supreme Administrative Court on April 12 ordered the country's two official newspapers not to publish final results of the March 26 parliamentary elections.

The ruling follows a legal complaint filed by a small party that did not clear the 3 percent threshold required to enter parliament. The People's Opposition bloc of Natalya Vitrenko claims violations were committed when election results were released.

President Viktor Yushchenko welcomed the court's decision.

Final election results were made available by the Central Election Commission on April 10.

The results are as follows: The Party of Regions, led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, won 32.14 percent of the vote, the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko received 22.29 percent, the Our Ukraine bloc of Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko received 13.95 percent, the Socialist Party won 5.69 percent, and the Communist Party won 3.66 percent.

In the 450-seat parliament, the Regions Party will have 186 seats. The Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko will have 129 seats, Our Ukraine 81, the Socialists 33, and the Communists, 21.

However, Ukrainian law says they have no legal force until they are published in "Holos Ukrayiny" and "Uryadovyy kurer."

Representatives of the Vitrenko Bloc spent the night of April 9-10 in the offices of the CEC, protesting the way the CEC is counting the votes in the March 26 parliamentary elections, the "Ukrayinska pravda" website reported on April 10.

Vitrenko says the CEC miscalculated the percentage of ballots cast for her bloc.

Vitrenko believes that in determining the relevant percentage the votes cast for her bloc should be divided by the votes cast for all other parties taken together, without taking into account invalid ballots or ballots in which voters chose "against all."

Vitrenko claims that if the votes are counted in this way, her bloc will gain representation in the Verkhovna Rada with 3.09 percent of the vote.

UOC-MP priest doesn't regret beating Jehovah's Witnesses

(RISU)—Fr. Oleksandr Hladchenko of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) in Cherkasy region, who is on trial for beating up representatives of the Jehovah's Witnesses, said he has no regrets about what he did and said he would do the same if he had the chance, reported rusk.ru on April 12.

But Fr. Hladchenko also noted that he is ready to reconcile with his opponents any time. "I am ready to reconcile with them as people, but not with their organization. It is possible to reconcile with one's worst enemy, but not with the enemies of our Orthodox faith," he said.

The priest is accused of beating the Jehovah's Witnesses who came to the village of Berezniaky, where Fr. Hladchenko is pastor, in order to preach on March 29.

On that day after the morning Liturgy the priest returned home from church, where he said the representatives of the Jehovah's Witnesses were preaching in the village. So, he took a stick and beat up six of them.

The representatives of the Jehovah's Witnesses went to court, accusing Fr. Hladchenko of "stirring interdenominational hostility, and assault." Nearly 20 court hearings have been held. Moreover, the decision of the Cherkasy Appeals Court was to close the case but it was renewed soon.

On April 10 in Smila, Cherkasy region, at a regular court session it was decided to send Fr. Hladchenko's case for further investigation because of a lack of evidence.

PHOTO — LUDMILA SUVOROVA

Moskal presents Moskal

(UkrNews)—Ukrainian Canadian Congress Alberta Provincial Council Director George-Yuri Moskal and UCC Edmonton Branch President Mykola Vorotilenko were among the Canadian election observers who monitored the polling in Luhansk, eastern Ukraine. In the mining centre of Luhansk, Moskal and Vorotilenko met with Hennadiy Moskal, Governor of Luhansk Province, and head of the State Administration, appointed by Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko. In Governor Moskal's office, George-Yuri Moskal presented him with a second revised edition of a book in Ukrainian *Reflections on a Bridge with Traffic Travelling Both Ways* about Canada-Ukraine Relations, especially with Alberta, dedicated to Alberta's centenary celebrations. Left to Right: George-Yuri Moskal, Hennadiy Moskal, unidentified, Mykola Vorotilenko.

UCC condemns desecration of Banff memorial

(UkrNews/UCC National)—The Ukrainian Canadian Congress says it is "appalled" by the recent defilement of a monument located near Castle Mountain in Banff National Park.

The monument commemorates the internment of thousands of Canadians, primarily of Ukrainian background, during the First World War, many of whom were confined at a nearby forced labour camp. Vulgarity now defaces the plaque at the base of the statue, which depicts an interned man.

"The statue has become a popular stop for visitors in the Park and serves to remind all Canadians of this sad episode in our nation's history," commented UCC President Irene Sushko in a press release issued April 7. "This act is extremely hurtful to our community and should anger all Canadians".

Federal officials, including Canada's Heritage Minister Bev Oda, have been informed of the attack. Rona Ambrose, Minister responsible for the Canada Parks Agency, has been asked to launch an investigation into the crime and to ensure restoration of the monument. UCC's Calgary Branch has discussing a potential hate crimes investigation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

"This barbaric act of desecration further underscores the need for the Federal Government to come to a final settlement surrounding the internment of Ukrainian Canadians so that all Canadians can learn the hard lessons of those unjust actions," said Sushko.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is a national body representing over 1.1 million Canadians of Ukrainian descent.

Yushchenko hopes Putin will visit Ukraine soon

(Interfax-Ukraine)—Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko hopes his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin will visit Ukraine as soon as the country's parliament and government are formed.

Putin's visit to Ukraine has been tentatively scheduled for late April-early May, Yushchenko told a news conference in Kyiv on April 12.

"We hope that the visit will take place in the near future, after order is established in our domestic political processes," he said.

"A meeting with the president of Russia will be a historic and landmark event that will pave the way for a solution to a wide variety of issues, including cooperation in the energy sector, arms trade and investment. Ukraine's integration with the eastern market will be discussed separately," the Ukrainian president said.

Integration into the European Union will be addressed as well, he added. Russia and Ukraine are close to signing a ten-year treaty on cooperation in research and development, he said.

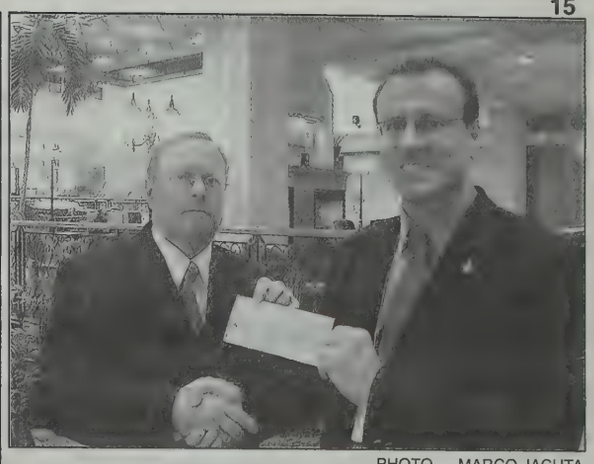

PHOTO.— MARCO JACUTA

Enlightening MPs

Etobicoke Centre MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj (right) presents Ukrainian News Editor and Publisher Marco Levytsky with a $10,000 cheque from the Wrzesnewskyj Family's "Dopomoha Ukrayini" (Aid to Ukraine) Foundation to pay for a one-year subscription to Ukrainian News for Members of Parliament and other government decision makers in Canada. The project, euphemistically entitled "Enlightening MPs" is designed to familiarize Canadian decision makers with the issues that concern Ukraine and the Ukrainian community in Canada.

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Japanese ex-soldier turns up alive in Ukraine

(RFE/RL)—A former soldier with Japan's Imperial Army has turned up alive in Ukraine, more than 60 years after he left his native country.

Ishinosuke Uwano, who is now 83, fought during World War II on the island of Sakhalin in Russia's Far East before vanishing without a trace.

Uwano reportedly moved to Ukraine in 1965, but had no contact with his Japanese relatives until now.

It is not clear why Uwano remained in Russia, or how he ended up in Ukraine, where he is married with three children.

Uwano is traveling to Japan on April 19 to visit remaining members of his family.

The Japanese government believes about 400 Japanese soldiers from World War II still live in the Soviet Union's successor states.

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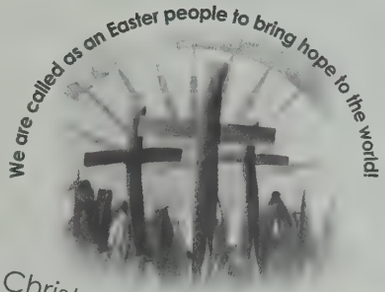

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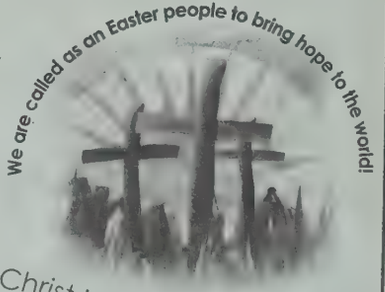

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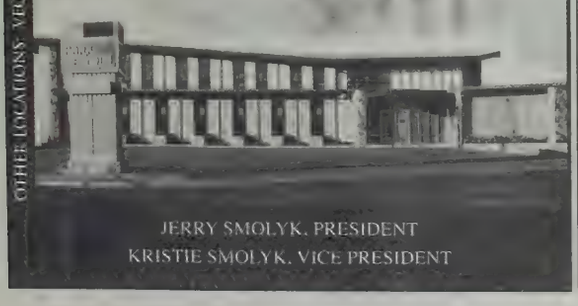

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Пінчук може збідніти на три мільярди доларів та піти шляхом Павла Лазаренка

Сергій Куделя, *Радіо Свобода*

Віктор Пінчук повинен буде сплатити компенсацій на суму три мільярди доларів США у випадку, якщо американський суд задовольнить позов з боку Ігоря Коломойського. Про це Радіо Свобода заявив адвокат Брюс Маркс, фірма якого - Marks & Sokolov - представляє інтереси Коломойського у федеральному суді штату Масачусетс. Коломойський обвинувачує Віктора Пінчука у незаконному привласненні частини прибутків від діяльності Нікопольського Феросплавного Заводу та переведенні їх на рахунки підконтрольних Пінчуку компаній у Швейцарії та США. Окрім декількамільярдного фінансового штрафу, зять колишнього президента України може також опиниться під загрозою кримінального переслідування з боку уряду Сполучених Штатів.

Коломойський вважає, що Пінчук порушив його права як акціонера НФЗ, та повинен компенсувати завдані збитки усім акціонерам.

Упродовж двох років Віктор Пінчук та його бізнес-партнери, громадяни США Джеррі Марґуліс та Александр Новак, здійснювали махінації, які завдали шкоди Нікопольському Феросплавному Заводу на суму близько одного мільярда доларів. Про це йдеться у позові, розгляд якого розпочнеться наступного місяця в окружному суді Сполучених Штатів. Позивачем є співвласник НФЗ Ігор Коломойський, йому належать 23% акцій заводу. Його американський адвокат Брюс Маркс стверджує, що докази незаконної діяльності Пінчука Коломойському вдалося отримати влітку минулого року, коли приватизація НФЗ була оскаржена в українському суді. Коломойський вважає, що Пінчук порушив його права як акціонера підприємства, та повинен компенсувати завдані збитки усім акціонерам.

Чому вирішили подати позов проти Пінчука в американському суді? Тому, що деякі учасники змови є громадянами США та використовували американські компанії для переховування незаконно отриманих прибутків, пояснює Брюс Маркс. Адвокат також зазначає, що не має довіри до українського правосуддя:

"Ми вважаємо, що існують серйозні проблеми із безсторонністю та справедливістю української судової системи. Судова система у США надає значно більше можливостей для проведення чесного слухання, оскільки судді тут не будуть під впливом чи тиском з боку таких політично могутніх людей як Пінчук чи його тесть Кучма."

Юридична компанія Marks & Sokolov у суді Нью Йорку також займається справою проти чільних російських бізнесменів – Віктора Вексельберга та Михаїла Фрідмана.

Позов проти Пінчука поданий згідно норм американського акту по протидії рекетові та корупції, що передбачає компенсацію втричі більшу завданої шкоди. Тому, у випадку задоволення судом вимог позивача, Пінчук повинен бути сплатити акціонерам близько трьох мільярдів доларів. Як каже Брюс Маркс, половину цієї суми, тобто майже півтора мільярди доларів, отримає український Фонд Держмайна, як власник частини акцій НФЗ. Розгляд позову проти Віктора Пінчука в американському суді може стати підґрунтям для початку проти нього і кримінальної справи у США.

Брюс Маркс: "Як адвокати, ми зобов'язані повідомляти американський уряд про будь-яку незаконну діяльність. І ми надали усю необхідну інформацію прокурору штату Масачусетс та міністерству фінансів США, оскільки американські банки використовувалися для відмивання та незаконного переведення грошей. Уряд США повинен буде сам вирішити чи необхідно здійснити розслідування цієї справи. В Україні добре відомо, що наш уряд серйозно ставиться до випадків корупції та незаконної діяльності українців у США. Підтвердженням цього є засудження у Каліфорнії колишнього Прем'єр Міністра України Павла Лазаренка."

Брюс Маркс не виключає, що Віктор Пінчук може повторити шлях Павла Лазаренка і тому повинен буде уникати подорожей до США. Американський адвокат також зазначив, що Віктор Пінчук – не перший олігарх, проти якого юридична компанія Marks & Sokolov подає позов. У суді Нью Йорку вона займається справою проти чільних російських бізнесменів – Віктора Вексельберга та Михаїла Фрідмана. Маркс прогнозує, що розгляд справи Пінчука триватиме близько року.

У Криму поширюється рух замозахоплення землі репатріантами

Володимир Притула, *Радіо Свобода*

У Криму поширюється рух захоплення земельних ділянок репатріантами, які називають це самоповерненням землі. Сьогодні зранку кількість самовільних поселень кримських татар лише у Сімферополі сягнула 20. Репатріанти стверджують, що стомилися чекати вирішення земельних проблем, тоді як корумповані чиновники розпродують цінну кримську землю.

На одному із земельних масивів на околиці Сімферополя, де поселилася група кримських татар, уже завезені деякі будівельні матеріали і чути звуки сокир та пилок – тут кипить робота з облаштування. Дехто зводить тимчасові будиночки, дехто рубає дрова для приготування їжі. Люди кажуть, що прийшли сюди назавжди, але підштовхнула до такого радикального кроку гостра потреба у житлі і байду-жість корумпованої місцевої влади.

Один з учасників акції самоповернення – Руслан – продовжує: "Чекати від держави квартиру – це, по-моєму, даремно, оскільки зараз нічого не будується. А так зробимо хоч щось своїми силами, а то діти ростуть, по дві, по три сім'ї живемо в квартирах...".

Подібні самовільні поселення в останні кілька днів з'явилися в усіх кінцях міста. Місцева влада паралізована, старий мер Сімферополя, не помічений раніше у симпатіях до репатріантів, складає повноваження, а нового сімферопольці так і не обрали. Республіканській владі теж не до того – її очільники переймаються перерахунком голосів на виборах. У міліції ж кажуть, що чинне законодавство не передбачає кримінальної відповідальності за захоплення землі і цю проблему має вирішувати насамперед місцева влада.

Тим часом місцеві проросійські козаки заявили, що готові силою звільнити захоплені кримськими татарами ділянки кримської землі. Від протистояння врятувало лише те, що до акцій кримських татар у багатьох місцях приєдналися представники слов'янського населення. На трьох "галявинах протесту", як їх називає місцева преса, кримські татари і слов'яни вже домовилися поділити землю, відвойовану у влади, за принципом 50 на 50.

А на центральному майдані Сімферополя уже тиждень стоїть кілька десятків наметів репатріантів. Сьогодні тут маленький концерт на підтримку півтори сотні активістів, які щодня тут чергують. Одна з них – Гульнара – каже, що на землю претендує близько 8 тисяч родин репатріантів, інтереси яких були знехтувані владою. Вони делегували своїх представників на майдан і тепер чекають відповіді від влади. Каже Гульнара-ханум: "Наш народ вирішив пікетувати так, щоб уже все було конкретним. Щоб нам дали конкретні відповіді на всі наші запитання, які стосуються земельних ділянок, тому що багато людей справді без житла", - сказала одна з учасниць акції протесту кримських татар.

Донецького губернатора зішлють до Туркменбаші

(Українська правда)—Губернатор Донецької області Вадим Чупрун незабаром, імовірно, вийде у відставку і повернеться на роботу в Туркменію.

Таке припущення в інтерв'ю УНІАН висловив чиновник українського МЗС, який побажав залишитися неназваним. Чиновник допускає, що Чупрун, "швидше за все очікує призначення Юлії Тимошенко і сподівається, що його відправлять назад до Туркменбаші".

"Тому що ніхто краще нього не зміг і не зможе ладнати з Ніязовим, що і надалі залишатиметься енергетичним партнером України. Не виключено, що там створять якесь представництво "Нафтогазу", яким він (Чупрун) міг би керувати", - сказав чиновник.

Washington Group examines Ukraine elections

By Oleksandr Khapatnyukovsky, *U.S.-Ukraine Foundation*

April 10, The Washington Group (TWG), in conjunction with the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), hosted a "The Recent Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine: A Review" presentation. Speakers included Orest Deychakiwsky, Senior Staff Advisor at the U.S. Helsinki Commission and a Ukrainian Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) election observer, Adrian Karatnycky, President of Orange Circle, and Serhiy Kudelia, SAIS Ph.D. candidate. The event was held at SAIS in Washington, D.C.

The panelists assessed the procedure of the first parliamentary elections in Ukraine after the constitutional reform had come into power, analyzed how the elections were conducted and gave their perspectives of the election's implications.

As the evening's first panelist, Deychakiwsky emphasised the importance of the post-election assessment of the OSCE-led election mission, which included observers from the parliamentary assemblies of the OSCE, EU, Council of Europe and NATO. This was the first time the OSCE had called any elections among the 12 former Soviet republics outside the Baltics "free and fair". This, according to Deychakiwsky, underscores the consolidation of democratic gains made in the Orange Revolution. Comparing the recent elections to the first two rounds of the 2004 presidential elections in Ukraine, Deychakiwsky noted that temniki, state interference, and the use of administrative resources and intimidation, harassment, and outright fraud were largely a thing of the past. This time there was a freer media and decidedly more balanced media coverage and the elections were conducted in an atmosphere of true competition. He also compared the Rada elections with the presidential elections in Belarus held a week earlier, which he described as a "farce."

However, there will still some shortcomings in the election process. The holding of both national and local elections at the same time added to difficulties in the efficiency of the election process, leading to long lines and overcrowding in some polling stations. Outdated or incorrect information in voter lists with the recent voter registration overhaul also led to complications — even disenfranchising some voters. Deychakiwsky praised the hundreds of thousands of election workers and non-partisan domestic and party observers for their hard work in ensuring the transparency of the voting and vote count. He stressed that the shortcomings were mostly organizational and logistical, and not the result of a centralized, planned attempt to manipulate the election, and that the election results reflected the will of the people. With these elections, said Deychakiwsky, "Ukraine's leadership and people have shown their commitment to democracy in a very tangible way."

Following Deychakiwsky's presentation, Kudelia focused on the results of the elections. He strongly criticized the President of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko for his failure to unite the Ukrainian people after the Orange Revolution of 2004. "Cultural and regional identities in Ukraine transformed into political ones", said Kudelia. He characterized the election campaign of the pro-President's political party Our Ukraine as a "brilliant failure". To make his point, Kudelia compared Our Ukraine's 24% support rate in the 2002 parliamentary elections with less than 14% backing in 2006.

At the same time, the speaker underlined the success of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. It came second with 22% of the votes, outpolling Yushchenko's "Our Ukraine" 2:1 or higher throughout most of Central and Eastern Ukraine. There are some reasons of this success, remarked Kudelia. Firstly, unlike President Yushchenko, Yulia Tymoshenko "has passed the test of power". "During her term as Prime Minister, she did not steal anything. On the contrary, she tried to return the stolen property to the people," explained Kudelia the popularity of Tymoshenko among common citizens.

Secondly, according to Kudelia, Tymoshenko won the corruption debate dominating the election. Having dismissed Tymoshenko from the government in September 2005, Yushchenko accused her of plotting a coup against him and favoring certain businesses. Tymoshenko, in turn, accused Yushchenko of surrounding himself with corrupt politicians who manipulated him. "The untransparent gas deal with Russia in January 2006 served as the critical evidence of corruption among Ukraine's top officials", stated Kudelia.

Thirdly, Tymoshenko in her election campaign appealed to socially unprotected people, like students, pensioners and doctors. "It was not new for Ukrainian politicians," said Kudelia, "but this time she promised that rich people would help the poor."

Closing his presentation, Kudelia expressed hope that politicians would stop using the symbols of the Orange Revolution that divided Ukrainians, but would try to find common ground and achieve reconciliation.

The final speaker was Karatnycky. He gave his overview of the elections and the business component in the Ukrainian politics. The speaker assured that the "orange" parties (Our Ukraine, Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialist Party) still remain the majority with 54% of votes, if you combine their results in the parliamentary elections. He also indicated there was "no question" that Yulia Tymoshenko will be Ukraine's next prime minister, in an "Orange" government.

Karatnycky's remarks raised serious concerns about the Party of Regions which received the largest share of votes in the elections with 32%. He noted there were two distinct groups inside this party. The first group is comprised of marginal, pro-Moscow politicians and those who were responsible for the 2004 presidential elections fraud. The second group represents Ukrainian businessmen who have interests in the West, led by Rinat Akhemetov of System Capital Management. In Karatnycky's view he is the true power in the Regions group and a "pragmatist" but he must distance himself through "concrete action" from discredited politicians in the Regions bloc. According to Karatnycky, now the Industrial Union Group, the powerful group of enterprises which originated in Eastern Ukraine, already has 40% of all its investment in the countries of the European Union. The interest of Ukrainian businesses in getting access to European and American markets will facilitate governmental policy towards Euro-Atlantic integration.

Karatnycky noted that this free and fair parliamentary election has marked the end of the post-Soviet era in Ukraine, and finally Ukraine was moving in the right direction.

Among the attendees in the SAIS Rome Auditorium were the representatives of think tanks and NGOs, mass media, Ukrainian Diaspora, and the Embassy of Ukraine to the United States. A reception followed the event.

U.S. to keep providing aid to Ukrainian media

By John Marone, *Kyiv Post, Apr 13 2006*

Despite widespread acknowledgement that Ukraine's media have become much freer since President Viktor Yushchenko came to power over a year ago, the United States plans to continue spending millions of dollars financing the development of independent journalism in the country.

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst told a conference in Kyiv April 10 that the U.S. will allocate $2.3 million to support the growth of objective sources of news in Ukraine in 2006.

Herbst credited the authorities who came to power on the crest of Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution, noting that journalists are no longer being killed, and law-enforcement agencies aren't harassing them anymore.

The U.S. will continue funding the development of Internet sites and special reports on economic and social subjects, Herbst said.

The United States Agency for International Development alone has earmarked around $2.4 million for its two major media development programs in fiscal year 2005, according to Assia Ivantcheva, deputy director for USAID's office of democracy and government. Ivantcheva said the budget for fiscal year 2006 would be about the same.

The Kyiv branch of Internews, a U.S.-based non-governmental organization, and Ukraine's Center for Ukrainian Reform Education, have received multi-million-dollar grants from USAID over several years.

Internews is mostly involved in providing things like training for journalists, media lawyers and managers, plus legal aid and legislative assistance.

This training and assistance is implemented by Ukrainian partner organizations like Kyiv NGO Telekritika.

Telekritika, which offers a website and monthly journal, analyzes media and conducts sociological surveys, radio shows and roundtables on media issues.

Supported primarily by Internews, as well as the U.S.-based National Endowment for Democracy, Telekritika receives an average of $100,000 a year in funding, said Natalya Ligacheva, who heads the NGO.

Internews also provides some grants for equipment purchases, production of radio and TV programs and the kind of monitoring and research work mentioned by Ambassador Herbst.

Ivantcheva said that grants, or direct financial assistance to media-related projects conducted by Ukrainian NGOs, are allocated on a competitive basis through the so-called Open Media Fund, which is jointly sponsored and implemented by the International Renaissance Foundation — a part of the Soros Foundations Network, founded and chaired by billionaire and philanthropist George Soros — and USAID-funded Internews. The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv also awards grants directly, which are approved by a board.

"Most of these grants run from three to eight thousand dollars," said Brent Byers, press attache at the U.S. Embassy.

Byers said the Embassy allocated around $750,000 in 2005 and plans to allocate as much this year. The money is used to finance websites for Ukrainian newspapers, the occasional purchases of office equipment and special projects.

"But we don't tell them what to write," said Byers.

"The only restriction is that we don't support state media," he added. "The whole idea is to help Ukrainian media become independent."

USAID's main focus is development of regional media, said Ivantcheva. Indirectly or directly, the agency supports 20-30 local radio and TV broadcasters and 15-16 local newspapers.

The Center for Ukrainian Reform Education, USAID's second major recipient of funding, concentrates on public education and press events through its 25 regional centers.

Ukrainian media also receive support from Europe.

"The EU no doubt is the biggest donor to Ukraine and its support has been significantly raised since 2003," said Helene Chraye, head of operations for the Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine.

According to the delegation, between 2003 and 2004, the EC approved three grants totaling over 325,000 euros and one service project for 1.2 million euros to support independent media in Ukraine.

Since 2005, the EC has sponsored a 2-million-euro project called "Development of Media Skills". Currently, the EC is conducting an ongoing tender for grants under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, an EU program that promotes human rights and democracies in developing countries, to support freedom of expression, with grants of between 300,000 and 1 million euros.

"However, the point is not which donor organization is spending more or less money in a specific area or on specific modalities, like grants or loans," said Chraye. "We are developing strong coordination mechanisms with other donors, not only through meetings, but by preparing joint projects."

Danube floods reach Ukraine

(Itar-Tass)—Record flooding along the Danube, which has already caused enormous damage to many European countries, has reached Ukraine, the press service of the Ukrainian Ministry for Emergency Situations told Tass on April 17.

Water level in the southwest of the Odesa region is close to historic high records. People were warned about possible evacuations.

The port of Reni, where the water level reached up to 5.6 meters early on April 17, has become the first city to be hit by floods. The water level has reached four meters in the port city of Izmail. Water is flooding low-lying territories where petroleum bases, berths, port trade centers and residential buildings are situated.

Water keeps rising, flooding arable lands. Rescuers, communal services and army units make protection dikes and strengthen riverbanks with sand sacks. A dam between Reni and Izmail is being strengthened to prevent the flooding of the only highway connecting the two cities.

Chernovetsky reassures Orthodox

(RISU)—On April 12, at the request of Leonid Chernovetsky, newly-elected Kyiv mayor, Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko), head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate (UOC-KP), met with him in his residence. The meeting was motivated by a letter which the patriarch sent to Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, expressing concerns of the Orthodox. Chernovetsky said that he was baptized in church and remains Orthodox, so he said the Orthodox residents of Kyiv should not be concerned about the attitude of the newly-elected Kyiv mayor to them.

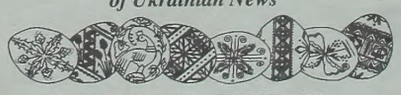
Chernovetsky confirmed his intentions to transform Kyiv into a real cultural center at a European level, with its basis being the construction of civil society, in which civil freedoms will dominate. He also plans to work on projects which have been started, in particular thorough support for the Orthodox church.

Patriarch Filaret confirmed the non-involvement of the church in campaigning, in elections in particular. "The institute of the church is separated from state institutions in our country. Therefore, the church has no intention of interfering in the political decisions of our faithful. The church will continue to demand the equal attitude of the government towards all denominations," said Patriarch Filaret.

We extend greetings on the Easter Day to the all Ukrainian community especially for our readers!

CHRIST HAS RISEN!

Staff & Administration of Ukrainian News



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Briefly

Economic growth continues

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine's economic growth continued to accelerate in March, the second month of faster expansion, driven by domestic demand and by increasing exports, officials said April 12 citing preliminary statistics report. The economy expanded 4% on the year in March, up from 2.2% on year growth in February and 0.9% growth in January, Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov told a government meeting, April 12.

Offshore acceleration

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine will seek to accelerate development of a natural gas field offshore the Black Sea near Odesa so that first gas can be extracted in early 2007, the Energy and Fuel Ministry said, April 11. The gas field, which is estimated to contain up to 18 billion cubic meters of gas, may be worth at least $1.8 billion in current gas prices in effect in Ukraine, analysts said.

Naftogaz reports mounting debts

(Ukrainian Journal)—Naftogaz Ukrayiny, the national oil and gas company, has been running an undisclosed debt to RosUkrEnergo, a Gazprom-controlled gas trader, for gas supplies so far this year, a company spokesman said April 14. The debt started to mount shortly after Russia had forced Ukraine to accept a 90% gas price hike stating Jan. 1, while the government had not yet allowed domestic prices to increase.

Happy Easter!
Христос Воскрес!

Gregory Panchyshyn, CFP

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from

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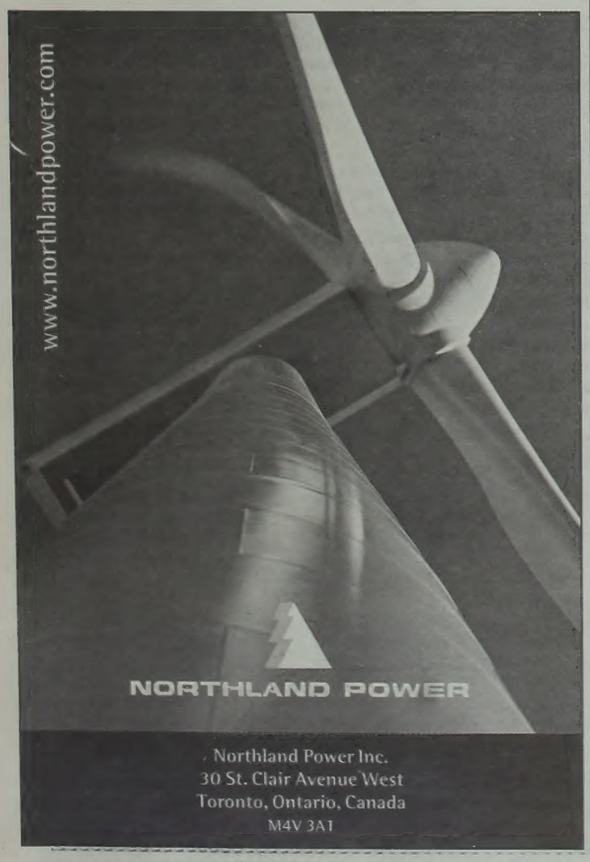


Tymoshenko vows to pursue liberal economic policy

(Ukrainian Journal)—Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who seeks to regain the post following the March 26 election, on April pledged to pursue liberal economic policies and abandon her earlier course on re-privatization.

Tymoshenko addressed the American Chamber of Commerce, a powerful business lobby group uniting foreign and domestic companies, to assure investors that her government would support economic policy of President Viktor Yushchenko.

"We will not violate development of market relations and will never resort to manually managing the economy," Tymoshenko said. "Although sometimes I do want to choke some [businesses], but I think everything will be OK."

Tymoshenko seeks to win support from foreign investors after her re-privatization policy in 2005, mostly aimed against former President Leonid Kuchma's loyalists, scared investors and led to a major economic slowdown.

Yushchenko fired Tymoshenko in September 2005 after her eight months in office and criticized her ways of handling the economy, including the re-privatization drive and attempts to restrict prices on gasoline and meat.

Business

But Tymoshenko's party performed strongly at the election last month collecting more votes than Yushchenko's Our Ukraine party that may lead to a coalition with Tymoshenko regaining the post.

"I am ready to make sure that our team becomes monolithic and that there are no doubts among the investors that the policy will be consistent with economic reforms," Tymoshenko said.

Ukraine's economic expansion slowed down to 2.6% on the year in 2005 from 12.1% growth in 2004 after most of domestic tycoons had suspended capital investments amid fears that their businesses will be returned to the state.

Tymoshenko, shortly after assuming the post of the prime minister in February 2005, vowed to re-privatize 3,000 businesses that had been apparently illegally privatized by Kuchma allies. Now, Tymoshenko promised to be more moderate.

"I will try not to make any mistakes," Tymoshenko said. "I will be acting more cautiously."

Mittal to double ore output at Ukraine mines

Mittal Steel will spend US$250 million to double iron ore output by 2009 at three Ukrainian mines it acquired last year, and also wants to acquire coal assets nearby, a company executive says, according to a report in the India Times.

The world's largest steel maker, which bought the mines as part of its $4.8-bn purchase of Ukraine's biggest steel mill, would be able to supply ore to its other plants in Europe after restoring output to Soviet-era levels, Mittal Steel's Kryvy Rih general director Narendra Chaudhary said.

"Our obligation was to continue operating the mines at current capacity levels, but we see value in increasing output," Chaudhary said in an interview April 12. "We would like to have more self-sufficiency as a group in the iron ore area."

Mittal Steel's acquisition at an October auction of a 93% stake in Kryvorizhstal, as the plant was then called, was a record for a Ukrainian privatisation. The company plans to spend another $1.2bn upgrading its facilities — including the iron ore mines — and expanding its range of steel products.

Chaudhary, who has worked in the steel industry for 40 years, said Mittal Steel Kryvy Rih also wanted to reduce its dependence on coal purchases and would consider buying mines in Ukraine. "We are always open to that. We would like to get more and more vertically integrated.

If there are opportunities in the coal area, we would definitely look at them," he said. Chaudhary said Mittal Steel Kryvy Rih had two open-cast iron ore mines with a reserve of 1bn tonnes or more, and another underground mine. "Once upon a time these mines were able to produce 30m tonnes a year of raw ore."

"The whole condition of the industry has deteriorated after the break-up of the Soviet Union and today they are at a level of 16m tonnes." Much of the $250-m investment would go towards removing several million tonnes of overburden that has accumulated at the mines and on the modernisation of the mining fleet, he said.

Chaudhary said the plant bought some iron ore from other mines in Ukraine. "We are deficient to the extent of 2-2.5m tonnes of raw ore equivalent," he said. "By 2007 year-end, we should be self-sufficient. Our projection shows that there will be a period in 2008 or 2009 when we should have some surplus. That surplus we may sell to other Mittal units within Europe."

He added that Mittal Steel was also interested in acquiring a separate, Soviet-era project — the KGOKOR ore enrichment plant — for which the Ukrainian government said on April 12 it wanted to find an investor to help complete construction.

Chaudhary said coal supplies to the Kryvy Rih plant had been stable since March, but that there had been some disruptions in winter, when coal was diverted for extra power generation. The largest coal supplier is the Ukrainian government. "About 25% is from Russia and Kazakhstan.

The rest is locally procured," he said, adding that the company blends Ukrainian coal with the imported material.

Ukraine bans Russian livestock

(RFE/RL)—Ukraine's Agriculture Minister Oleksandr Baranivsky said on April 6 that Kyiv will impose a ban on livestock products from Russia, Interfax and RBC reported the same day.

Citing the poor quality of Russian livestock products, Baranivsky said the ban will go into effect "within a few days" and that "all documents have already been drawn up," Interfax reported.

He added that Ukraine will lift a ban that has been in place on livestock products from Poland, Belarus, and Moldova, RBC reported.

On Jan. 18, Russia banned Ukrainian meat and dairy products, saying they were of poor quality and endangered consumers' health.

Six dairies were later permitted to sell their products on the Russian market following audits from Moscow officials.

Briefly

NBU changes exchange mechanism

(Ukrainian Journal)—The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) has changed the mechanism it uses for calculating the official hryvnia exchange rate for a number of foreign currencies, in particular, the Russian ruble. The amendments to the regulation on setting the official hryvnia exchange rate for foreign currencies were stipulated in NBU resolution No. 83, registered by the Justice Ministry on March 31.

Industrial output up 0.2%

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine's industrial output rose 0.2% on the year in the first quarter, the slowest growth over the past five years, as the economy had been coping with doubled natural gas prices. The industrial output increased 1.3% on the year in March, slowing from 1.5% on year growth in February and reversing a 2.9% decline recorded in January, the State Statistics Committee reported April 7.

Consumer confidence up slightly

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine's Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) increased slightly in January through February, according to a survey released by the International Center of Policy Studies (ICPS), an independent think tank. "The February CCI rose 0.6 points over December 2005, to 103.7," according to the report by the center.

An-70 proposal made

(Ukrainian Journal)—Ukraine received several "interesting" proposals to continue development of military transport plane Antonov An-70, but was not yet able to accept them due to unclear Russia's position, an official said April 11. The previous week Ukraine suggested it would tap Boeing and Airbus, the world's two biggest aircraft manufacturers, to buy out Russia in the project that has been developed since early 1990s.

Bank assets up

(Interfax-Ukraine)—Ukrainian banks had combined assets of 237.22 billion hryvnia in the first quarter of 2006, up 6.4%, the NBU said on its website, April18.

BC Kyiv settle for third

Pip Dynamo at buzzer after falling to DKV Joventut in semi-final

(FIBA)—BC Kyiv made up for some of the disappointment of the April EuroCup semi-final loss to Spain's DKV Joventut with a victory on April 9 against Dynamo St Petersburg in the game for third place.

DKV went on to win the title with a DVK 88-63 thrashing of Moscow's BC Khimki 88-63 in the final.

The third-place game was a repeat of last year's FIBA Europe League final in Istanbul, which Dynamo won 85-74 to win the championship.

Despite the lack of silverware on offer, the game proved to be a battle in which both teams gave their all for the win.

In the end, two missed shots in the waning seconds by Dynamo was the difference between the two sides.

"I feel better today winning the third place game than I did last year when we lost in the final," said Kyiv coach Renato Pasquali.

"It was good for us to win today after the mentality of the players were really down after Friday's loss. We had to find a way to get over that loss and concentrate on the future."

The game came down to the last three minutes as Dynamo battled their way back from a 10-point deficit.

Jamal McCullough was the key man for the Russian club as he hit 3-of-4 from the free throw line inside the final 90 seconds to keep his side in touch with Kyiv. It was his dunk with 42 seconds to go which cut the lead to two points, 81-83 and gave Dynamo hopes of stealing the contest.

Kyiv had a chance to make the game safe but Guilherme Giovannoni's lay-up attempt was blocked by Kelly McCarty and although Kyiv got the ball back, LaMarr Greer missed a three-point attempt and Dynamo gathered the ball for the final offensive possession.

The Russians worked the ball to an open Andrey Ivanov for a potential game-winning three-pointer. His shot missed, but Dynamo had another chance when Vladimir Veremeenko got his fingers to the rebound. His attempted tip-in rimmed out at the buzzer.

"We were not lucky in this tournament. In any game you need luck sometimes. Besides the technical part of the game we lost today the same way Khimki beat us," said Dynamo coach Fotis Katsikaris.

Despite their obvious disappointment at not having the chance to play for a championship, both coaches were able to take positives out of their Final Four experience.

"These two games were really important for us and we are very proud to participate in the final four for a second consecutive year," said Katsikaris.

"I told my players today that we are one of the best 10 teams in Europe. We belong in that group and I am very proud of my team."

"I was satisfied with the way we played because we only had one day to recover from Friday's loss. It looked like we would lost the game but we came back which showed real character and this is important for our upcoming league games."

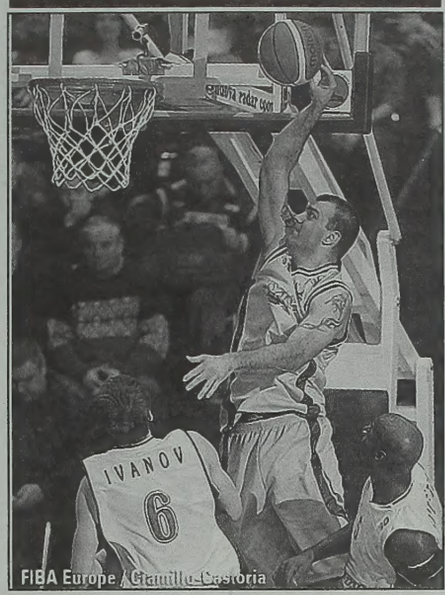
"Some players who did not perform well in the semi-final really led the team today and that is important for us as the season is not over and we still have the cup and the league," said Pasquali.

After a poor semi-final showing, Greer led Kyiv with 21 points, while Gorak Nikolic added 18 and nine rebounds.

McCullough top scored for Dynamo with 22 points and McCarty chipped in with 20.

Two days earlier BC Kyiv had the wind taken out of their sails on at home in the semi-final.

Sports



FIBA Europe / Gianillo-Castoria

Ratko Varda (BC Kyiv)

The FIBA Europe League finalists failed to take advantage of the home crowd and never really found their 'A' game in a contest which was dominated by their Spanish opponents.

Rudy Fernandez was the hero for Spanish as he scored 11 of his game-high 22 points in a fourth quarter in which DKV turned a 59-57 deficit into an eventual 10-point victory, 78-88.

"He's an unbelievable talent and he's so young, but he's already doing it in big games like this," said DKV's British center Andy Betts of Fernandez.

"He's doing it in the ACB, which I think is the strongest league in Europe and he's doing it every week."

Fernandez's fourth quarter was all the more important as DKV threw away a significant lead built in a dominant opening period. They hit 10-of-14 shots from the field (six of those baskets coming on assists) in the first quarter as they jumped out to a 28-17 advantage.

Kyiv's woes were compounded early in the second quarter when center Ratko Varda picked up his third foul. He would go on to play no further part in the game, finishing with 0 points and three fouls in just three minutes of action.

Despite Varda's loss, Kyiv gradually chipped away at DKV's lead, getting help from some unusal sources.

Afik Nissim, who joined Kyiv in February, had seven points in the quarter and Kresimir Loncar, who had taken two three-pointers in 15 games up until today, was 2/2 from behind the arc as Kyiv closed to 39-46 at the half.

Nissim continued to impress in the third quarter. He had another five points, a three which brought Kyiv to within three points (50-53) and two free throws on the next play which cut the lead to just one, 52-53.

It was Nissim again who struck early in the fourth and his three-pointer right at the start of quarter gave Kyiv their first lead of the game, 59-57.

Unfortunately for the home side it would be their only lead as Fernandez inspired DKV down the stretch.

The 21 year old hit a three-pointer which sparked a 19-6 DKV run to put his side up 76-63 with five minutes to play. Kyiv's defense was torn to shreds during the opening five minutes of the fourth as DKV's hit seven of their first eight shots, all of which came on lay-ups, dunks or three-pointers.

The onslaught proved too much for Kyiv to handle and head Coach Pasquali called a timeout with 4:45 remaining, his side down 63-76, in an attempt to staunch the bleeding. However, the gap proved too much to overcome and Badalona held on for the win.

Pasquali was sanguine in the post game press conferences, putting the blame for the loss squarely at his own feet.

"Let's say today was my bad. When you win the coach is good. When you lose the coach is bad. I guess I was bad today," he said.

It's not easy to find a reason why we lost today. I can't say we were not ready and I can't say we didn't play well. The biggest difference in this game was the experience of Elmer Bennet."

Bennet was a key influence for DKV, finishing the game with 17 points and six assists in 29 minutes.

Vladimir Klitschko wins lawsuit

IBF heavyweight champion Chris Byrd falsely accused Ukrainian boxer Vladimir Klitschko of using a chemical substance on his gloves to affect his vision in a world title bout in 2000, a German court ruled, reports AFP.

The 35-year-old American made the claim in the German press after losing the WBO heavyweight fight on points.

Klitschko was at that time being promoted by Universum who took legal action for libel.

In the April 18 judgement a Berlin high court ruled that Byrd "had no authority to repeat such a statement".

On April 22 the two boxers meet again six years on in Mannheim when Byrd puts his IBF title on the line.

Klitschko, the 1996 Olympic champion, is hoping to relaunch his career with a win against the American.

Zaporizhya defy Ukrainian odds

By Igor Linnyk

(UEFA)—FC Metalurh Zaporizhya are looking to become only the fourth club to lift the Ukrainian Cup after reaching the final against FC Dynamo Kyiv.

Only FC Chornomorets Odesa, FC Shakhtar Donetsk and Dynamo have won the competition since independence, but the April 12 1-1 draw at FC Illychivets Mariupil was enough to earn the team from the home of the famous Zaporizhya cossacks a 3-2 aggregate victory and final against Dynamo on May 2.

Traditional also-rans, Zaporizhya have turned from sheep to wolves under coach Viacheslav Grozny and have already qualified for the UEFA Cup — they put in an admirable performance in 2002/03, bowing out to English side Leeds United AFC 2-1 on aggregate in the first round.

With Dynamo certain of UEFA Champions League qualification, the UEFA Cup slot pencilled in for the Ukrainian Cup will be Zaporizhya's, although having upset the odds by beating Ivan Balan's in-form Illichivets, the underdogs may feel they can win the cup outright.

Before the final, however, they have other considerations. The first is fulfilling their main seasonal task of avoiding relegation. Ninth in a closely-fought league, the bottom two remains too close for comfort. Secondly, their all-important coach has to get out of hospital.

Grozny, a Ukrainian Cup finalist as FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk coach in 1997, was admitted for a check-up and has yet to be released, prompting suggestions that Anatoliy Byshovets, who led the USSR to Olympic gold in 1988, or former Zaporizhya coach Oleg Taran, may be called in to replace him.

The coach is not about to give up his job, though. "As soon as the doctors allow it, I will get back to work," said Grozny, who is currently guiding his team by telephone. "I have obligations towards the club and the fans. Our primary task is to survive in the top division."

Zaporizhya have seen seven coaching changes in four years, but only Grozny seems to have made a positive impact. The former FC Spartak Moskva, FC Arsenal Kyiv and PFC Levski Sofia chief has transformed a squad with plenty of potential into a workable unit.

With two good goalkeepers, Andriy Gluschenko and Vitaly Postranskiy, his defence features Belarussian international Siarhei Shtaniuk and Ukraine Under-21 prospect Dmytro Nevmyvaka, with Serhiy Nagornyak, German Kutarba, Ruslan Lyubarskiy and Olexandr Aliyev (on loan from Dynamo) impressing in midfield. Up front, Serhiy Shischenko and Irakli Modebadze are forging a useful partnership, with the latter scoring the goal at Illichivets that helped pave Zaporizhya's path to the final — and possible glory.

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Front Row: Left to Right: Cheryl Paron, Chrissy Pompei (holding a picture of Coach Joe Dinatale, Debra Gilhespy, Karen Dushinski), Adele Dickson, Brenda Diachuk, Joyce Mackey. Back Row: Cindy Krause, Susie Melnyk, Leanne Daneyko, Shelley Chalifour, Mandy Langstrom, Geri Zuk, Andrea Betke, Connie Krawchuk, Terri Spinny, Lorraine Goruk. Missing: Wendy Warawa , Coach: Joe DiNatale.

Ukraine women win EDSA Mini World Cup title

(UkrNews)—Cheryl Paron scored with 11.7 seconds left in the game to lift Team Ukraine to a 4-3 victory over Team Canada in the Classics final of the Edmonton and District Soccer Association's 2006 Mini-World Cup, April 9.

This is the first time since the inception of the Mini World Cup in 2001 that Team Canada has lost the final in the Classics category, which comprises women over 35.

"We had a strong desire to win and support each other's efforts," says Team Ukraine Manager and Captain Adele Dickson.

"We had a lot of team spirit and energy. We are like any good Ukrainians — hard working and persevering. We are all proud of our heritage and not afraid to celebrate that," she added.

What's more, Team Ukraine won the championship without their coach, Joe Dinatale, who had to go to Italy to be beside his ailing father, who passed away the day after the victory.

"At our first gathering as a team, our coach asked us to create an Identity. How will we be remembered? We chose to be remembered as a team that works hard, never gives up, plays up and down the pitch as a team. He instilled this throughout our training and exhibition games," says Dickson.

"We played four games without a coach. I believe this says it all… He had prepared us well and we all had the same goal — win the gold and have fun doing it," Dickson told Ukrainian News

Our Coach called every game day, to wish us good luck, always said "If we play the game, we can play, we will win and have fun'," she added.

Brenda Diachuk scored the first goal in the nailbiter final battle at the 22-minute mark of the first half.

Canada tied the score in the first minute of the second half, but Ukraine came right back on scores by Dickson and Connie Krawchuk.

Then Canada roared back with two more goals to tie the game at 3-3 with six minutes left.

Ukraine entered the final by beating the Netherlands 1-0 in the semi final.

They stormed unbeaten through the opening round, clobbering Italy 5-1 in the first game, demolishing England 6-1 in the second, humiliating the USA 12-0 in the third, and trouncing Germany 7-1 in the fourth.

Three of Team Ukraine's members made the first all-star team — Karen Dushinski, Andrea Betke and Connie Krawchuk.

Two — Brenda Diachuk and Terri Spinney — made the second.

Dushinski also won the award as the top goaltender in the tournament.

"Throughout our preparation and all the games, we celebrated and are very proud to celebrate our culture," says Dickson.

"The team bonded very quickly because we all had the same passion for the game of soccer and pride to be playing for our country."

Lisogor breaks own record

(UkrNews/Eurosport)—Oleg Lisogor broke his own championship record to claim gold in the 50m breaststroke in 26.39 at the at the world short-course championships in Shanghai, April 9. The Ukrainian had seen his qualifying time for the final matched by Italy's Alessandro Terrin, but the Italian was unable to live with Lisogor's pace and had to settle for silver ahead of Britain's Chris Cook.

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Twin titans tower over Ukraine

By Igor Linnyk

(UEFA)—FC Dynamo Kyiv and FC Shakhtar Donetsk are sure of places in the 2006/07 UEFA Champions League after establishing a huge lead in the Ukrainian Premier League.

With five rounds remaining, the traditional giants are in a world of their own, with second-placed Shakhtar sitting 23 points clear of FC Chornomorets Odesa in third. However, the title race itself could go to the wire.

Since taking charge last August, Anatoli Demianenko has led Dynamo on a run of 25 league games without defeat, during which time they have drawn only twice. Recent weeks have seen one disappointment, though, with Brazilian defender Rodrigo Baldasso heading to SC Corinthians after failing to fulfill his potential in Ukraine.

Nonetheless, the overall prognosis is tremendous, as goalkeeper Olexandr Shovkovskiy and Serbia and Montenegro defender Goran Gavran_i_ are returning to full fitness, while 31-year-old Serhiy Rebrov recently celebrated his successful conversion from forward to midfielder with his 200th goal.

Not that Mircea Lucescu's Shakhtar have been wilting in Dynamo's shadow, boasting the division's 14-goal top scorer in Brandão, who is two ahead of FC Metalurh Donetsk's Olexandr Kosyrin. Currently three points behind Dynamo, they face their arch rivals in a final-day showdown in Kyiv on May 14.

Further down the table, FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk could make a late push for a UEFA Cup place after bringing in Greek fitness coach Sergios Fotopoluous. Previously employed by APOEL FC, Anorthosis Famagusta FC and Panathinaikos FC, Fotopoluous is assisting Dnipro coach Oleg Protasov while former assistant Gennady Ivanov takes over the reserves.